SUNDAY
January 21, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
34 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Ayodhya

Ramlalla Pran-Pratishtha Ceremony

Paush Shukla Dwadashi, Vikrami Samvat 2080
Monday, 22 January 2024, Time 12:20 pm

Honourable Presence

Mahant Nritya Gopaldas Ji Maharaj
President, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

Honourable Narendra Bhai Modi Ji
Prime Minister, Government of India

Dr. Mohanrao Bhagwat Ji
Sarsanghchalak, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

Anandiben Patel Ji
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath Ji Maharaj
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Saints & Seers of about 125 Bhartiya Traditions and 2500 Dignitaries from various fields will grace the occasion

Let us also make our Village / Locality / Colony Ram Mayi.

Rejoice and Welcome Ram Lalla
By Singing Auspicious Songs
By Colouring Bharat Ram Mayi
By Lighting Diyas At Our Doorstep In These Historic Moments

- Run a cleanliness campaign at your nearest temple from Makar Sankranti to 22nd January.
- On 22nd January, collectively perform Ram Naam Sankirtan in a temple near you.
- Watch the Pran Pratishtha program collectively by installing a TV/LED/Screen at your nearest temple.
- After Pran Pratishtha, distribute Prasad in your village/colony/locality.
- On the day of Pran Pratistha in the evening, light at least five diyas at the doorstep of your house and workplace/shop.
- After Pran Pratistha Day, visit Ayodhya at your convenient time for Darshan.

Regd.No.76/1683

PAN - AAZTS6197B

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

Camp Office: Mandir Nirman Karyashala, Ramghat Chauraha, Ayodhya-224123

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IN KERALA

'Celebrity' jumbos now cost more

Huge demand for elephants with good 'body features' has pushed up their rent and made festivals a costly affair

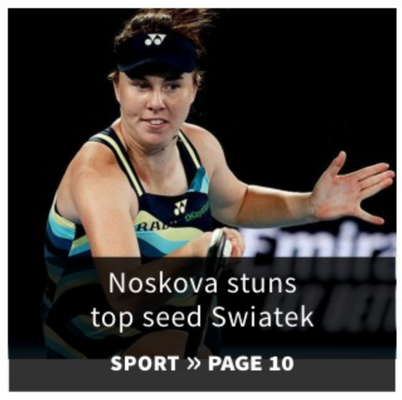
SOUTH» PAGE 5

Child welfare NGO loses FCRA registration

NEWS » PAGE 6

William Lai — Taiwan's wild card

PROFILES » PAGE 16



Noskova stuns top seed Swiatek

SPORT » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Bulk metering keeps residents away from Gruha Jyothi

BENGALURU
Multiple builders have provided the occupants of their residential complexes private metering from a single High Tension connection from Bescom instead of individual Low Tension (LT) meters. Of late, residents are approaching Bescom asking for ways to convert to LT, thanks to Gruha Jyothi scheme. » PAGE 3

KSDL raid exposes decade-long operation

BENGALURU
It has now emerged that the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap production facility in Hyderabad was in operation for a decade without coming to notice of KSDL. Probe has now estimated that the unit had a turnover of ₹500 cr. -₹600 cr. » PAGE 4

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 2
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Wetland 'nature tourism' gets a fillip

Govt. to support conservation action, enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities while tapping tourism potential of Ramsar sites

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Union government has embarked on a mission to promote tourism at ecologically sensitive wetlands, better known as Ramsar sites, such as the Chilika lake in Odisha and Sultanpur bird sanctuary in Haryana. The focus of the initiative would be to shift these fragile wetlands from high-value tourism to nature tourism by directly supporting conservation action and letting local communities and economies take the lead.

As of now, 16 Ramsar sites have been identified under the initiative and five of them have been taken up as a pilot project for skill development of the facilitators, tourism service providers, and stakeholders in and around these sites.

These five wetlands are Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha), Chilika lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).

The initiative to develop these sites has been taken by the Union Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme, 2023.

Change in approach: Sixteen Ramsar sites, including Chilika lake, have been identified under the initiative, and five of them have been included in a pilot project for skill development. K.R. DEEPAK

The Amrit Dharohar initiative, part of the 2023-24 Budget announcement, was launched in June 2023 to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar sites in the country while generating employment opportunities and supporting local livelihoods.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

ED questions Soren for over 8 hours in tribal land scam case

We will face all conspiracies of Centre and win the fight, says Jharkhand CM; agency likely to approach him for a second round of questioning

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was quizzed by Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials at his official residence in Ranchi for over eight hours in connection with the alleged land scam case.

The ED had earlier issued seven notices to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader for questioning. However, he skipped all of them. Following the eighth summons, he agreed to record his statement.

The case relates to the purchase and sale of tribal land between 2020 and 2022 by allegedly forging documents. Seven ED officials reached Mr. Soren's residence at 1 p.m. and

Under pressure: ED officials arrive at the residence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in Ranchi on Saturday. PTI

questioned him till 8.30 p.m. Of them, three came from Delhi. When the ED officials were questioning him, JMM workers turned up outside the house and protested against the Central agency.

With heavy deployment of security forces, the entire area was turned into a virtual fortress.

ED officials did not interact with the media after questioning him.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Padmabhushana, Karnataka Ratna, Basavashree Awardee,
Trividha Dasohi, Maha Shivayogi, Paramapoojya

Dr. Sree Sree Sree Sivakumara Mahaswamiji's

5th Year
Commemoration Ceremony

21-01-2024 Sunday, 11.00 A.M.
Sree Siddaganga Math, Tumakuru

Divine Lead :
Sree Sree Siddalinga Mahaswamigalu
President, Sree Siddaganga Math

Divine Presence :
Dr. Sree Sree Tontada Siddharama Mahaswamigalu
President, Sree Jagadguru Tontadarya Samsthana Math, Gadag

Ceremony Inauguration by :
Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

Presided by :
Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa, Hon'ble Former Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

Inauguration of Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji Hospital, SMCRI by :
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Home Minister & Tumakuru District Incharge Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

Stone Laying for Post Graduate Block, SMCRI by :
Shri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Large & Medium Industries, Govt. of Karnataka

Hearty Welcome to the participating Pontiffs, Political Leaders,
Dignitaries, Sree Math's Devotees - Well Wishers and the Public

All are Cordially Invited

ಸದ್ದುಗದ್ದಲವಿರದ ಸಾಧನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಗದ್ದುಗೆಯೇರಿದೆ ।
ಕಾಯಕವೇ ಕೈಲಾಸವೆನ್ನುವ ಮಾತು ಕೃತಿಯೊಳು ಮೂಡಿದೆ ।
ಕಾವಿಯುಡುಗೆಯನುಟ್ಟು ನಭವೇ ಕಿರಣ ಹಸ್ತವ ಚಾಚಿದೆ ।
ಎಲ್ಲ ನನ್ನವರೆನುವ ಭಾವದ ಕರುಣೆಯೇ ಕಣ್ತೆರೆದಿದೆ ॥

ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗೆಯ ಶ್ರೀಚರಣಕ್ಕೆ – ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕವಿ ಡಾ. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ಶಿವರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ

Siddaganga Medical College and Research Institute
Dr. Sree Sree Sivakumara Swamiji Road, Tumakuru

Running the show: A bull race on the occasion of the Sankranti festival in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Balanced act: A bull performs feats as part of the Sankranti celebrations in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

Festival's favourite: A Gangireddu bull made to dance, at the Arts and Crafts Village of Shilparamam in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

Rite of fire: Decorated bulls and cows made to walk on fire as a ritual on the occasion of Makara Sankranti in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Celebratory capers with the cattle

In South India, Makara Sankranthi gives a unique space to cattle with a wide range of customs

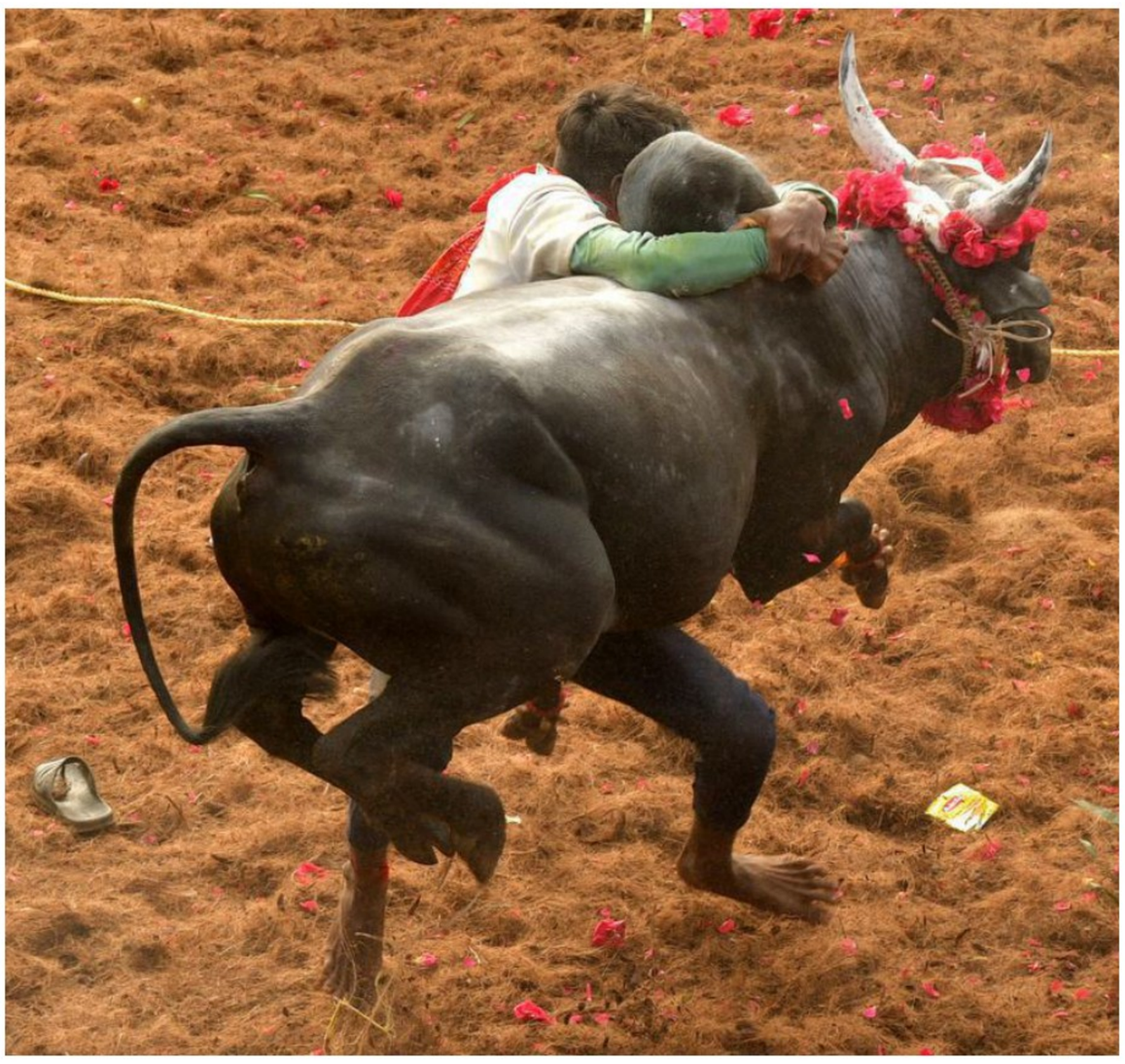
As the sun transits from the southern hemisphere to the north, it's time for celebration because the end of winter is nigh and farmers can look forward to fresh beginnings. The harvest festival is celebrated in various States in different forms with different customs. Sweets, kites and rangolis are integral to Makara Sankranthi. But in South India, the festival gives a unique space to cattle. From worshipping the animal to making them race and trying to tame them, the festival features a range of ways the animals are treated.

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, bulls colourfully decorated with flowers and garments, called Gangireddu, mark the beginning of Sankranthi festivities. The Gangireddu community take their decorated bull house to house seeking alms. Bulls are also made to perform in front of an audience, who pray for good fortunes and harvest. Bull races are also common here during the festival.

In Karnataka, the festivities become hardcore when cows and bulls are made to walk through fire. The age-old Kicchu Hayisuvudu ritual is believed to bring good fortune for the people and protect them from harm. The animals are given extra care during the day of the ritual. At night, they are decorated with garlands and bells before forcing them through raging flames.

Tamil Nadu marks the Pongal festival with the famous and much-debated sport of Jallikattu. Young men attempt to tame a bull, trained all year to avoid capture, in an arena in an attempt to gain 'glory'. While the way the animals are treated often attracts criticism, they do form a crucial aspect of the festival for a majority and it is impossible for them to imagine a Makara Sankranthi without the presence of the animals.

(Text by Vighnesh P. Venkitesh)



Dashing and daring: Youngsters attempt to tame a bull at the jallikattu in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. M. MOORTHY

Classifieds

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
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HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
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MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
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MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
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TULU
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ENGINEER
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IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

EDUCATED FAIR Kerala girl(33/5'6") seeks a boy loyal, educated, settled. Caste no bar. M#8971475878

TELUGU YADAVA Chartered Accountant, 31 years, cosmopolitan, based in Bangalore and working for a leading MNC is looking for suitable grooms – IIT/ IIM/ CA/ Doctors – in the 32–35 age group and well settled in the corporate world. Please respond to: sayhellotovenkat@gmail.com

DOCTOR

BALIJA NAIDU M.B.B.S Kettai, Viruchikam 26/165 fair good looking girl, Kanchipuram seeks Doctor (or) Professionally settled from Naidu families Contact: 9443380196, 9442202555

THE HINDU

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DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, MBBS.MD, 26/167, 60, 000per month, Rich Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9047192999

SAMBAVAR, PARAYAN, 28/167, PG Doctor, seeks suitable groom, Doctors only, Ct: 94425 22322 , 63858 03393.

KAMMA NAIDU, 28/168 , MDS.,BPS., (Prosthodontics & Implantology), Certified BPS Specialist, Uthiratathi, Meenam, Mesham. Seeks Doctor Groom. Ph: 98421 31535.

✔ **GAVARA NAIDU** 24/165 MBBS (Attending PG Coaching),Kettai Upper Middle Class in Coimbatore seeking Doctor groom MD,MS,Doing PG or Professionals. Avoid IT, Abroad. Subsects no bar. 98426 50751,98653 01920

THIYYA GIRL 31 / 157 Thrikketta MBBS MS DNB (OBG). Doctor Government, Seeks Suitable alliance from Malabar Area Kerala. Call : 8547805851

GROOM WANTED

Reputed Reddy Family in Chennai Invites Alliance for Daughter 32/165, Doctor MBBS, MS, Looking for Tall Educated Groom from affluent family CNB.

Call: 89256 40111

30Y/F MBBS; MD, Divorced-no child. Preferred Groom-from TN/early 30's / Doctors / Divorced - no child / Caste no bar. Ph: 9442145470

MALAYALAM

OBC GIRL, 27/157, MBBS Dr., doing MD in GMC, lives in TVM. Needs alliance, C/R No Bar. 9446355482.

NRI

CHRISTIAN FAMILY settled in USA seeking groom for their daughter (29/160cm IT engineer, never married). Looking for groom settled in USA. Phone:7305407185 (India) +1 5104495282 (USA/WhatsApp)

PUNJABI

HINDU PUNJABI Khatri Arora Medico Girl 5ft 5inch 26, (Imperial, Oxford University educated) 9876212666

TAMIL

RC GIRL 28/170cm Working in Microsoft Parents Keralite Settled in Chennai Own Business Seeks Chennai Based Groom from a Good Family Background. 98841 85583.

CHRISTIAN:CASTE NO Bar– 26Y. God's Fear Girl. MBBS, MS, Seeks Doctors. Chennai or any District:9363570731

RC NADAR, 38/5.7, B.Tech., MBA., Slim employed Bride seeks BC/FC Groom. Ph /whatsApp: 94875 61757.

TAMIL CATHOLIC Doctor parents having own hospital looking for highly educated, cultured, affluent groom, preferably doctor, for their fair, beautiful doctor girl, 31/162 Ct: 9448123480

LOOKING FOR suitable groom, preferably Doctor, for a very fair, beautiful, Tamil/ English Catholic girl, MD/ 29/157 from an affluent, cultured family. Contact: 9945530186

CSI NADAR, 27/172cm, B.TECH/ MS in Canada, 5 Lakhs per month. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999

SEEKING MUSLIM Groom with permanent income above 40 yrs willing to settle with Non–transferable working SMU bride first marriage 9788634884

TAMIL Muslim 24/157 MD pathology seeks prof qualified groom Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

VANNIAKULA KSHATRIYA Hindu Uthiradam 28/168, B.Tech, seeks well settled educated groom preferably in Pondicherry. Contact: 9443659440

GROOM WANTED, Rich Naidu, 26yrs, B.Arch, MS (US), Elite Family Background Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

VANNIAR FAIR Girl Uthiram 25/160 M.S. (Engg) Australia. Father S.E. (Retd) TNEB Seek Smart handsome groom with M.S (Engg) Ct : 97894 61060

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 31yrs, MBBS, MS, Own Hospitals, Well Educated Family. 9710093999/ 8939691888

REDDIYAR, 27YRS, B.Tech, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

THANJAVUR Agamudayar, MBBS, MD, 29 years fair seeks BC doctor/ CA/Bank/UPSC groom. 94430 10858.

48/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB. Ct: 9444837355/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

TAMIL

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 29 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK. Seeks Groom in UK . Caste No Bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862.

HINDU Devendra Kula Vellalar 28 / 160cm, B.E. NIT, Trichy working in Bangalore 5LPA. Devendra Kula Vellalar and above Preferred MBC, BC, and OC. CT: 6381564391 / 8825927070.

SC,34YRS B.TECH, Manager, Govt Bank, Divorcee, Unconsumated. Contact Mobile: 8939574245

ISAI VELLALAR Pillai / Sengunda Mudaliyar 26/MBA/Software Employee, Chennai Seeks Well Qualified/Employed Groom. Father NLC Executive (Retd) Mother CBSE Teacher Elder sister married. Cell: 9443837685 / 8870522456

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 23yrs, MBA (UK), Elite business family in Chennai. Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 31yrs, BE, MBA, Divorce, Elite business family in Chennai. 9710093999/ 8939691888

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR Elite Family 32/ 165 Mirugasim, Raghu in Lagnam PG (HR MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom. 9176780777

WELL SETTLED Hindu Nadar 27, MBA, Divorce Seeks Married/Unmarried, CNB,Educated, Chennai Groom 9047582233

MUDALIAR / PILLAI 36 fair Hastham MCA Well settled in Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Working Groom 8220757159

EMPLOYED QUALIFIED bridegrooms is wanted for SC/AD/MSC/DB 1983/ Vishakam ,Dhulam bride 9498313625

SC(AD), 24YRS, BE, Well Educated family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

PILLAI / MUDALIAR, 34, MD, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 34-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Contact: 9345855735

✔ **HINDU NADAR, Fair Girl MBBS, MD–Y1, 24/160, Rich Affluent, Seeks suitable Good looking Groom with clean habits, from Hindu Nadar only. MN: 9444968235**

MUDALIAR GIRL 27/BE working/ Bengaluru/ from well to do family with moral values seeks Hindu Groom with similar background. Ct: 7975421774

MUDALIAR: 22/ Good Looking, MBA, Having own Jewellery Showroom, Com. Complex, Construction Business, very Rich Family, Seeks Business Groom Only – 8925019776

SENGUNTHAR MUDALIAR BE MBA Working in Bangalore Corporate Company, Sep 1994. Required Suitable Match. Sub Caste No Bar. Ct: 8870865296

VADAKALAI IYENGAR, 28yrs 5'4" Mrigaseerisham 2, B.Tech 20 LPA Seeks good family well educated Iyengar groom, preferably Simple marriage. Ct: 9841385737 / delta8488@gmail.com

Alliance invited for Tamil Gounder (Caste no bar), Chennai Girl from a reputed business family 31/165, Good looking, B.Arch, working in family business (Chennai), looking for a Qualified boy, preferably settled in Chennai, Bangalore Decent profession / Business (any Industry)

Ct: 98943 98674 / 73585 10790

Hindu Nadar, 29yrs/160cm Moolam/ Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) Working-CISCO Bangalore, 19L Pa seeks groom with Similar Educational and Professional background. Contact: 91768 00819

Hindu Adidravida Hastham 28/156cm BE Mnc 16L pa seeks suitable Alliance from Govt, PSU, IT. Ct: 94441 55781

Doctor / Hindu Devendrakulam MBBS 29/168cm Working in Chennai, Decent Family, Good Looking seeks suitable groom Pref. Doctor/ other Professional. Mail Id: shanmugaraj0717@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU 25/164 Fair, Beautiful, BE, SWE, Infosys, 600000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

NAIDU (CNB): 26/ V.Fair & Beautiful, M.S (UK), doing Family Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Business / Abroad – 8939012419

SC, 32yrs/152cm, PharmD, Pursuing Ph.D, Divorcee, No kids, Seeks Groom- India & abroad, Caste No bar, ct.9700019949.

URDU

SMU CHENNAI Based (Asst. Prof), 41 / 154cm, Divorcee. Seeks Suitable Groom Same. Ph: 9025067019

SEEKING SUNNI-MUSLIM Professionally qualified boy from South India, settled in Australia/Canada with PR, 5'8" and above, 30 yrs & below, for NRI girl M.Tech employed very fair, 5'5", 25 yrs. Cont: India – 9440518725 or Father in UAE – 00971506213898.

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted a beautiful Girl from a Cultured & Well Settled Family for a 31 year old Handsome & good Hearted Young Man from a High Profile Well Established Chennai based Business Family

Contact:
93420 13743
deeparj1975@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Chennai. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

SMARTHA BRAHMIN, MBBS.MD.DM 45/173 Bachelor, seeks any Brahmin BE MBA or degree, good family never married girl. Ct: 9379933099

MALAYALAM

EZHUVA 26 Years old Bride with Anusham 1st Patham, Chevvai - Rahu Dosham, born in Tamil Nadu (Native: Palakkad) working as an Asst. Manager at SBI, required Bank / Government Employed Groom. Contact : Phone / WA: 93 63 03 58 59.

NRI

NAIDU 29/180,POORATATHI, BTech, MS Working as Research Engr ,PR of Sweden, Wanted Bride Call 9566682220.

TAMIL

RC Rich Only son 31/167cm BE(Aero) SBI-Manager seeks Doctors/PG Engrs caste/R/Launguage nobar.9600390006

SC HANDSOME Dark 29/174 SWE France. Seeks fair Girl with IT job willing relocate to france. 9445013696

VANNIYAR 28 180 BTech Nitk SWE in MNC 30 LPA at Bangalore with low vision in left eye seeks suitable Bride same caste ph 9324324617

GOVT OFFICER 56, Separated,Reside in Coimbatore Seeks Well Settled, Independent Woman Age40–52 as a lifelong companion& Soulmate. CastenoBar mducbe18@gmail.com Call:9585245551

NAIDU: CASTE No Bar – 25Y, Fair, MBBS. Father Lot Business. Seeks Suitable Doctor. Ch any Dist:7824023030

AGE 35, Handsome, Affluent Groom wants Bride with 10Crore Asset. Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 7401489892

CHENNAI 41YRS. GM sports Govt . 2lac/mth.Fair kind innoct divorcee. Sk educated UM / Div bride 6385140946

HINDU TAMIL Nadar 43/181 B.E., Carleton Univ IISc,vimalkrishna@ingeniousdesigntech.com, 99943-51766.

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MBA 178cm Smart Look 35Lacs PA, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

MUDALIAR, UTHIRATTATHI 29/185/ MS, employed in Govt Canada seeks well educated family bride. 9840084190

AGE 35 Handsome, Comfortable Groom needs VIP Girl and first Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce. Ct: 9600240593

TIRUCHENDUR NADAR 30/186 MPT Physiotherapist Chennai with Clean Habits & Character seeks Well Educated, Good Personality & Family 9791167569

INTERCASTE (BC&FC), Chennai, 45y/ 5'7", IT, BE MS, Divorcee (Short lived marriage; No kids), Clean habits. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9790911710

39, UNMARRIED, MCA, Business, Coimbatore. Matrimony Agencies Please Excuse, Contact 9489603438

ALLIANCE SOUGHT for son, Sozhia Vellalar, 34, 5ft 8inch, MBA, earning Rs. 4.8L/ year at Hyundai, Dindigul. Open to all castes. Contact Chandrika (mother) at 7708463435, kothandak@hotmail.com

KONGU VELLALAR, 36, 5.6, s/w Engg. in USA (BE, MS). Seeks a bride.. caste no bar. There is a minor well managed health consideration that might require support on the path to parenthood. Happy to discuss ct. 8438688375.

DEVENDRA KULA Vellar 36, Thrikketta, M.Tech, settled in Trivandrum, Kerala, Senior Engineer in Bharat Electronics, Bangalore, Govt. of India, Caste no bar, Mob: 9446393787

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI, DOB:29.05.93/ 183cm, BE,MS(USA) N.Veg,Working in USA,Seeks Suitable Bride(25–28yr) Studying/Working in USA,Mother:9003713942

29, BE, Ele, Railway, Chennai, Intercaste Seeks from State, Central, IT Caste no bar, with prograssive mind. Cont. 9444413568 / 9003149239

VANNIYAR, MS(USA) 30/172 Swathi Fair, Employed in USA seeks well educated suitable bride. Ct: 9444678830.

BRIDE WANTED SC(Ad) 28yrs B. Arch,Own Constructions in Chennai Elite Business family 9710093999/ 8939691888

REMARRIAGE SENGUNTHAR 39/165 BE, SWE, MNC Seeks Good Looking Girl without Child 155cm Educated 9443943012

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HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 37/183 Sadayam, B.Sc, MBA Job, Business 30L PA. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl any Degree, Any Caste in BC. Whatsapp: 9360323979

NAIDU, B.Tech, MBA, 6 feet, 45 yrs, young looking, unmarried, SWE, 25 LPA, Chennai, Teetotaller, UMC seeks working bride. CNB, FC, OBC. 9443999554, 9442500222. jokannan1975@gmail.com

MUDALIYAR 31/179 cm, B.Tech– IT, Fair 12LPA, Seeks Er / Dr Mudaliyar Bride Ct: 6369166114

RC PILLAI 43/170 8Lakhs p/m working in Singapore Divorced Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar Ct:9047192999

ENGINEER, 53, 180cms, unmarried, Bangalore, seeks graduate lady. Mob 8698966952 .

AD/ 27/ M.Tech/ Software Engineer/ working in MNC, Chennai, Seeks Good family educated suitable bride. Ct: 8925503619

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI, 38/165, M. Tech.,(Ph.D), HOD, Pvt.Engg College Pondy Seeks bride 29 to 36yrs 9942257578

A WELL Settled Hindu Age 45yrs seeks Soul Mate, Helping, Broad minded, Independent Women Age No Bar at Chennai. Contact: 8220819962

BRAHMIN 54, Seeks below 53 Years Brahmin Bride. Widowed, Divorcee and Unmarried also Ok. Ct: 9384586456

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

IYER B.charanam/ Koundinyam/ Avittam 1988 B.Com/ MBA working pvt firm getting 4.5 LPA seeks working bride. 9443132445.

SAIVAPILLAI 32/183 MS (USA) working in Chennai. Seek bride with quali/job. Send horoscope to: 9840554427.

BRAHMIN (TELUGU) 46 (Divorce with issues, kids are with the mother) 5'10" Good Looking/ MBA, B.E, Software / Hyd, settled, Good Family Seeks Suitable 1st Marriage Brahmin Bride - prefer Telugu/ Tamil (between 33-38 yrs), Job not necessary, any degree education, Call; 9515349877

AGAMUDAYAR
30 yrs / 172 cm Pooradam, Fair, Software Engineer 2 Lakhs pm seeks SWE / BE / Dr Bride
6382086919 / 8508099103

BRIDE WANTED
Good Looking Groom Bharani Natchathiram BE., MBA
Monthly Sal. 5 Lakhs
Need Bride Age Above 27.
9345 161 848

HINDU Devendra Kula Vellalar 38 / 165cm, Simmam / Pooram, B.E.Mech Engg., 30 LPA for Agriculture only, Devendra Kulla Vellalar and above Preferred MBC, BC, and OC. CT: 6381564391 / 9884068956.

✔ **Mudliar boy BE,MS 27 / 5'5" Europe S/W Engineer is looking for suitable Girl. Ph: 9448476176**

PILLAI 34/177 BE, MBA, SWE, MNC 10L PA Chennai seeks Employed, BC, MBC, FC.Brokers Excuse 9500147451

HINDU-SC Arunthathiyar, 35yrs, B.E, MBA well settled seeks suitable Bride Contact: 98404 76273

Mudaliar 35/178 B.com, LLB, Bharani, Advocate.Madras High Court. properties and having other income seeks suitable Bride same/Compatible Community. whatsapp 6381709257. Reply to tsdb1962@rediffmail.com.

TELUGU

CHENNAI BE Balija Naidu 31yrs Simmam Makam 2padam 16lacs per Annum Project Manager 9962266041, 7010290847

NAIDU 1994 born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

BRIDE WANTED: 39, Kamma Naidu, MBA, Well Settled, Earning 3 Lakhs Per Month, Caste No Bar, No Expectations. Ct: 9962996999

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 30, 174 cm Pooram–Simmam M.S (Engg) working in USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT. 9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride– Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

REDDY M.Tech 35yrs 1Lak PM Punarpoosam, Mithunam, Owns Prime locality Plot, invites suitable Bride Contact : 9894100454.

KAMMA NAIDU, BCom,ACA,ACS,30/ 180Cm, Fair,Star Thiruvathirai, Rasi Mudhunam, well to do family, partner in a mid size firm of Chartered Accountants at Chennai. Seeks Bride from Kamma Naidu family. Ct. 9840786456

NAIDU 29/182 Handsome,MS,SWE, JB Morgan, USA,150000.USD.PA, Aflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

Brahmin Telugu groom aged 39yrs unmarried Haridasa Gothiram, Sr.SW Manager, no commitments, 2.5Lac P.M any Brahmin Iyer Bride (Telugu / Tamil) Ct: 9176131914, 9882882797.

BRAHMIN (TELUGU) 46 (Divorce with issues, kids are with the mother) 5'10" Good Looking/ MBA, B.E, Software / Hyd, settled, Good Family Seeks Suitable 1st Marriage Brahmin Bride - prefer Telugu/ Tamil (between 33-38 yrs), Job not necessary, any degree education, Call; 9515349877

Kapu, Cast No Bar, 45Yrs, Business. Rich Family, Seeks Good Looking Divorce/ widow Bride. Ph: 9845170897

URDU

SALAFI, AGE 25 years, working as Civil Engineer in Saudi, 12 lakhs PA. Ct Dad: 7305763810 Mom: 9600522910

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CHETTIAR, 31, 180 cms, Businessman, CA. Lives in Kovilpatti. Father is a CA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

CSI ADI DRAVIDA, 30, 183 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Thiruvallur. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 31, 170 cms, Working Professional, CA. Lives in Kovilpatti. Father is a working professional. Mother is an Employed. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

INTERCASTE, 26, 180 cms, Employed, MS(Engg). Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 37, 165 cms, Legal Advisor, LLB. Lives in Dubai. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN IYER, 31, 170 cms, MBA. Lives in Munich, Germany. Father is a Finance Director. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYA, 28, 165 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Hosur. Father is an Industrialist. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

KONGU VELLALAR, 27, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, MA. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

DEVAR, 22, 165 cms, Student, BE. Lives in Madurai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

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ALLIANCE INVITED for Brahmin Iyer boy ,Clean habits, Avittam Kaundinyam, 29/182(Divorced, non consummated) CA–Employed –MNC – Chennai, from Qualified Religious minded Iyer girl without issues from respectable family, Ph:8454056770

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HINDI

SANADHYA BRAHMIN BOY ,1994,5'6", Working as an AE (Govt.) in UPPCL , Home Town Bharatpur (Raj), Seeks WORKING GIRL(Govt.) , 9887515276

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CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

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RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.**

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 42/163, NRI, PhD Scientist USA.Native Musiri–Trichy. Seeks suitable match with similar/equal qualificationWhatsApp: 9944310533

VISWAKARMA PHD NEWYORK USA 31/155 SEEKS SUITABLE BRIDE PREF WORKING/ STUDYING IN USA. CT : 7200771188

AGE 75,RTD Intelligence officer, Currently realty business, widower, children away,healthy active seeking Life Partner, with English knowledge, good health, encumbrance free, CNB call 94455 32961

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 24yrs Textile Design Own Textiles Elite Business Family 9710093999/ 8939691888

40 YRS, IT Guy, Australian Citizenship. Seeks Bride MBBS Doctor, Willing to Settle in Australia, Caste No Bar, Divorcee also Pref. without Child. Age 35 to 40yrs. Ct: 98844 83605

SENGUNTHAR, 38/ 165 B.E, Widower, NRI. 65 Lacs, 2 Kids living together. Caste, Education, Wealth No expectations. Wants unmarried family oriented girl. 7904495268

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs / 178cm, BE MBA, 33 LPA in MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Employed Bride From a Similar Family Background. Ct:9841054900

TAMIL

ALLIANCE FOR 27 M/ 5ft 4inch, MSc Engineer, Devendra Kula Vellalar, employed in Netherlands. Seeking employed Graduate/ PG bride with good family background. Caste no bar. Interested families, respond with Biodata, Horoscope and Photo to 09967538710 / chamyvm@gmail.com

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Malpractice alleged ahead of re-exam for PSI recruitment

Govt. claims audio clip in question may be of an Intelligence operation. Home Minister promises action if malpractice is found.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The re-examination for the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors (PSI), being conducted on Sunday, has run into a controversy after an audio clip of a constable talking to an aspirant about "ensuring a job and getting the question paper beforehand" went viral on Friday.

However, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the official in the audio clip is a State Intelligence officer, who has claimed to have made a fake call to an aspirant as part of his job to ferret out information about possible malpractices. "The investigation is on and we will take stringent action if any malpractice is found," he said. However, this has not gone down well with the Opposition leaders who have alleged a cover-up and demanded a detailed probe into the allegations. "There needs to be a thorough probe into these allegations and they should not be brushed under the carpet," said BJP leader C.T. Ravi.

> There needs to be a thorough probe into these allegations and they should not be brushed under the carpet
>
> **C.T. RAVI,** BJP leader

Senior officials probing the allegations told *The Hindu* that till now the investigations have neither revealed any exchange of money nor a question paper leak, as alleged.

Following the audio clip going viral, PSI post aspirants complained to the Chandra Layout police on Friday and the case was transferred to the Central Crime Branch (CCB). The person in the audio clip has been identified as Lingaiah, a constable with the State Intelligence. He has been detained and questioned. Senior police officials who questioned him said the official claims to be conducting a sting operation and was stringing along the aspirant to ferret out more information about possible malpractices.

The exam to recruit 545 PSIs that was held in 2021 was cancelled by the State government after large-scale irregularities were reported during the exam. Probe into these led to the arrest of the then chief of the police recruitment cell Additional Director-General of Police Amrit Paul. The recruitment scam was one of the planks used by the Congress against the BJP in the Assembly elections. Now, a dark shadow of malpractice has been cast over the re-examination as well.

'Self-declaration policy for building plans will cut red tape, but concerns will remain'

There will be lax regulation on building bylaw violations in the city if the proposed policy comes into force, many argue

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

At present, it takes at least four to six months for a property owner in Bengaluru to secure approval for a building plan. FILE PHOTO

The proposed self-declaration policy for building plan approval is anticipated to provide much-needed respite to citizens from red tape and corruption. However, concerns have also been raised about the potential lack of oversight and resultant building bylaw violations under the proposed system.

At present, empanelled architects or engineers enrolled with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) upload the plan online for approval following which the civic body grants approval after conducting site inspection, analysing drawings, and checking other required documents. Although the process is digital, most of the approvals are carried out physically. "The software the civic body uses at present is substandard and designing a better software will cost nearly ₹30 crore," a civic official said.

It takes at least four to six months for a property owner to secure plan approval. On the other hand, corruption in granting the approval is rampant. Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has cited corruption and delay as the reasons for bringing a new self-declaration system.

Trust and verification

According to an empanelled architect who is in the know of the proposed system, in the new system, architects have to self-declare that the plan adheres to building bylaws. This is done online. Many are confusing this with self-approval. "I want to emphasise that the architects are not empowered to self-approve building plans. They are only authorised to self-declare the plan. After declaration, the Town Planning Department will approve the plan without a site inspection. This is termed trust and verification. The BBMP approves the plan trusting the architect," he said. This may apply to sites measuring up to 50x80 ft.

Citizens to benefit

The citizens who have to bribe and wait for more than six months can heave a sigh of relief. Without any hassles, the architects/engineers can smoothly clear the approval. On the other hand, as soon as the plan is self-declared, the owner can commence the work and need not have to wait for the final approval from the BBMP, said a BBMP official. The property owners have to hand over the required documents to the architect and pay the fees prescribed by them. This will not only cut red tape but also corruption, it is hoped.

At present, the Self-Assessment Scheme (SAS) is there for property tax on the same trust and verify model in the city. While it has mostly been hassle-free for citizens, Mr. Shivakumar had himself recently said that the SAS for property tax had led to people under-declaring their assets. A special drive to reassess some of the properties and issue tax demands with penalty notices is under way, leading to protests by property owners.

Many have raised concerns that a similar scheme for building plan approvals may lead to more building bylaw violations – which is rampant and a big menace in the city. As the civic body's onsite inspection will not happen, deviations from the plan are more likely.

N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, one of the early champions for SAS in property tax and one of the petitioners against Akrama-Sakrama, said in the present scenario the proposed new system would only likely lead to misuse. The BBMP would be approving the submitted plan without inspecting the property. This would lead to revenue loss for the civic body. The BBMP at least should randomly inspect sites for plan approval process.

Cyclist killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A cyclist was killed after a goods vehicle collided with him on Bhoopasandra main road on Thursday night.

The police identified the victim as Devraj, 43, a resident of RMV 2nd Stage. After the accident, local people rushed him to Baptist Hospital. He, however, succumbed to his injuries on Friday, the police said.

The police have arrested the goods vehicle driver.

Karnataka is not receiving incentives for its fiscal efficiency: Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the inauguration of a seminar organised by M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lamented that despite Karnataka's proven track record of sound fiscal performance, it is not receiving any incentives for its fiscal efficiency. He said this after inaugurating the national-level seminar on 'Fiscal Federalism: Challenges Before the Sixteenth Finance Commission', organised by M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences in the city on Saturday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah emphasised that Karnataka's macro-fiscal performance has been noteworthy with the distinction of being the first State to promulgate the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The macro-fiscal indicators such as fiscal deficit and revenue deficit have always been within the stipulated limits, barring the post-COVID-19 pandemic reappearances of revenue deficits, he said.

The Chief Minister said the State does not have adequate resources to attain the vision of $1 trillion GSDP by 2032. "Furtherance of the State's economic and human development requires significant investments in human and physical infrastructure. Despite Karnataka's proven track record of very sound own tax performance, the resources are not adequate to meet the growing challenges and also attain the vision of $1 trillion GSDP by 2032," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He said it is also ironic that the second highest tax-paying State in the country does not get an adequate reward for its contribution. "We will urge the 16th Finance Commission to increase the weightage assigned to tax effort to incentivise efficiency and fiscal performance," he said, adding that the Finance Commission must make necessary adjustments for the intra-State per capita income differentials while arriving at the income distance in making the recommendations.

"Karnataka's share in tax devolution got reduced from 4.713% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.647% under the 15th Finance Commission. Karnataka has experienced the biggest cut among the States, a reduction of 25.5%. The current approach considers the income distance as per which, Karnataka loses out to the lower distance from the highest per capita income State," he said. He also pointed out that it is significant to consider the fact that high per capita income levels arise mainly from the Bengaluru Urban district.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 21	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:15
RISE 14:26	SET 02:49
MONDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 15:19	SET 03:47
TUESDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 16:13	SET 04:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	20
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Stop divisive and communal politics, focus on real issues: CPI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has demanded that both Union and State governments focus on real issues in their upcoming Budgets. It has also given a call to put an end to "divisive and communal politics".

At a protest held at Freedom Park in the city on Saturday, CPI activists urged the Union government to stop politics to emote the feelings of the citizens and start politics that nurture the lives of the people. "The government has been openly indulging in communal politicking today with the sole intention of ignoring the real issues of unemployment, rising inflation, issues of housing for all, pension," the party said.

State Secretary of the CPI Sathi Sundaresh said both the State and Central governments should prioritise problems of the people in the upcoming Budgets. An action plan should be formulated to help the poor. He said the government should withdraw amendments to the Land Reforms Act and the APMC Act which are anti-farmer in nature. The working hours that was increased from eight to 12 should be cut back. Under the Factories Act, women are being made to work in night shift and this should be withdrawn too, he demanded. Mr. Sundaresh said over 27 lakh people in Karnataka do not have homes and the government should build homes for the homeless.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my clients **1) Smt. M.B. SHYLA** W/o Sri. Balaram M.S. and **2) Sri. SHREYAS M.B.** S/o Sri. Balaram M.S. Residing at Ward No. 03, SHIDDALAGHATTA Chickballapura District-562105. is intending to purchase the under mentioned property hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from **Sri. K.N. MOHAN GUPTA** S/o Late. K.B. Narasimhaiah Setty Residing at No. 22, 'SHRINIDHI' Agarabathi Road, Near Police Station, Uttarahalli, BANGALORE-560061 who claims to be the absolute owner/s of the 'Schedule Property'. Any other person/s who have any kind of right, claims, interest, over the 'Schedule Property' are herewith called upon to file their claims before the undersigned within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of their notice **'Kannada and English' News Paper** with the relevant and concerned documents. If no such claim is filed within the given time my client shall proceed and purchase the **'Schedule Property'** as 'no claims subsisting'.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing Residential Vacant **Site No. 22** (Twenty Two) out of Sy. No. 30, Situated at **UTTARAHALLI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** presently the said property comes under purview of Bruhath Bangalore Mahangara Palike, Bangalore Property Bearing Municipal No. 22, Uttarahalli, Bangalore, Khata No. 330/22, BBMP Ward No. 184/Uttarahalli, Measuring East to West 30'-0" (Thirty) Feet, and North to South 40'-0" (Forty) Feet, totally measuring **1200 Square Feet,** and bounded on the :

East by : Road, West by : Site No. 24, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 23.

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Registrar of Co-operative Societies,
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Email: yeshtrust1@gmail.com
No:DOC/2023-24/SE0002 Dated: 20.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders for **Appointment of TPA service provider for the implementation of Yeshasvini Co-operative Members Health Care Scheme in Karnataka State (Through e-procurement only). (1)** Publication of Tender document through E-procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka: **20.01.2024. (2)** Date from which the tender document can be downloaded: **20.01.2024, 6.00 p.m. (3)** Date of Pre bid meeting: **29.01.2024, 12.00 Noon. (4)** Last date and time for submission of tenders: **20.02.2024, 5.00 p.m. (5)** Opening of Technical tender bids: **21.02.2024, 5.15 p.m.** The detailed bid document is available in the KPPP e-procurement portal. Interested bidders can download and participate in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** Further details can be obtained from the office of the Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies, (Industry and dairy), during the office hours from **10:30 A.M. to 17:30 P.M.**

Sd/- Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies, (Industry and dairy)

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with resume and enclosures related to Qualification, Experience, and other accomplishments

Eligibility

As per UGC notification dated July 18, 2018:
https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4033931_UGC-Regulation_min_Qualification_Jul2018.pdf

TN G.O.(MS) no. 5 dated 11.01.2021:
https://cms.tn.gov.in/sites/default/files/go/hedu_e_5_2021.pdf

I. Ph.D. degree

II. Professor / Associate Professor, with a total service / experience of at least fifteen years in a regular position. (For application details, refer to the college website https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/pr_website)

Last Date: 21.02.2024

Applications should reach the undersigned through registered post with all documents

on or before 21.02.2024, 5.00 p.m.

Registered post & ack due to: The Chairperson, Principal Selection Committee, Lady Doak College, Hakim Ajmal Khan Road, Tallakulam, Madurai - 625002, Tamil Nadu, India.

Chairperson
Madurai Principal Selection Committee
Date: 21.01.2024 Lady Doak College

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Heavy event: A traditional bull race event during the celebration in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. G.N. RAO

In rhythm: Dancers perform in front of a Gangireddu bull in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

For glory: A bull fighter participates in the Jallikattu event in Alanganallur near Madurai. G. MOORTHY

Holding on: A participant tries to tame a bull during the Avaniapuram jallikattu in Madurai. G. MOORTHY

SUNDAY
January 21, 2024

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Bulk metering in residential complexes keeps residents away from Gruha Jyothi

Number of residents approaching Bescom asking for ways to convert to individual LT meters has increased

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Many builders opt for a single HT connection to cut costs. According to a Bescom official, there are 850 such domestic residential complexes in the power utility's limits. FILE PHOTO

For years now, multiple builders in Bengaluru have provided the occupants of their residential complexes private metering from a single High Tension (HT) connection from the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) instead of individual Low Tension (LT) meters. While some residents had opposed it from time to time, of late, the number of residents approaching Bescom asking for ways to convert to LT has increased, thanks to Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Many builders opt for a single HT connection to cut costs. According to a Bescom official, there are 850 such domestic residential complexes in the power utility's limits. Most of them are in Bengaluru. "In the last year, residents of four or five residential complexes have come enquiring about conversion to LT as they want to avail of benefits of the Gruha Jyothi scheme. Earlier, some residents used to come asking for conversion as they did not want to miss out on benefits like solar rooftop installations, now it is Gruha Jyothi," the official said.

Karthik (name changed on request), a resident of an apartment complex on Sarjapur Road, said Gruha Jyothi was one among the many concerns residents have due to the HT arrangement. "Even upon our insistence, the builder is adamant that he will not let us convert to individual LT meters. We are worried that once the RWA is formed and the building is handed over, then any pending dues of the builder (to Bescom) will have to be borne by all the residents of the building. They also use separate software to generate bills for our private meters and if there is a bug in the software, then it might result in some residents getting wrongfully charged more," he said.

Forced to pay more

According to the tariff structure of Bescom, LT consumers are charged less than HT consumers. But in such arrangements, consumers are forced to pay HT price for electricity. "The LT and HT categories exist for specific purposes. Technically, each house should come under LT, and it is not right on the builders' part to have them in HT category. The residents will miss out on the prices and benefits of LT due to this," said Vikram Rai, general secretary, Bangalore Apartment Federation.

While many residents expressed doubts about the legality of providing electricity like this, Bescom officials said that bulk metering under HT was allowed for residential complexes. "If the residents want to change it, they can convince the builder and get into an agreement with Bescom for LT connection," the official said.

The residents argued that Bescom should not let builders have this kind of arrangement as many would not be aware of the technicalities. "Unfortunately for buyers, at the time of purchasing a house, they only know that they are getting electricity. But most of them are not aware if it is LT or HT and end up in such situations," Mr. Rai said.

Education fair on January 31

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Acharya Foreign Universities Education Fair 2024' will be held on January 31 at Acharya Institutes, Acharya Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Road, Soladevanahalli in Bengaluru. More than 20 universities from the U.S., Canada, Australia, and other countries will be participating in this fair.

According to a press release, a briefing session will be held from 11 a.m. and counselling sessions will be held from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. A free registration window will be opened for students to attend the fair and interact with representatives from these universities. For details and registration, visit: https://bitly.ws/39VHx

Faculty development programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The departments of Biotechnology and Mechanical Engineering, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, organised a week-long faculty development programme on 'Synthetic biology and biomimetic applications' from January 8 on the Sir MVIT campus.

According to a press release, H.G. Nagendra, professor and head of the Department of Biotechnology, Sir MVIT, and programme coordinator in his address elaborated on the immense opportunities in diverse domains of 'Synthetic biology and biomimetic applications'. S.G. Rakesh, principal, Sir MVIT, and chairperson of the organising committee, urged the qualified faculty to upskill themselves for better progression.

The programme featured interactive lectures and hands-on labs by experts, according to a release.

Tribal hamlet in Mysuru district gets power connection 75 years after Independence

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

An electricity meter being installed at Kotanahalli Colony hamlet which was without power for decades.

A tribal hamlet on the fringes of Hediyala range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, without electricity for generations, recently got connected to the power grid of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC).

Kothnalli Colony is under Devarayashettypura Gram Panchayat in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district. It is inhabited by 20 families belonging to Jenu Kuruba community and the total population of the village is 70.

Given the geographical location abutting the forest periphery, these 20 families were cut off from the mainstream and lived in darkness all these decades.

Intriguingly, villages close to the hamlet had power connection but a portion of the tribal hamlet of the Jenu Kuruba community at Kothnahalli Colony was left out and it took 75 years after Independence to ensure power connection.

Central scheme

But the launch of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan or PM-JANMAN programme targeted at Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) ensured that the village was covered by the basic necessities, including power supply, as stipulated under the programme.

On January 10, the hamlet was connected to the power grid and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will reimburse the expenditure incurred to the CESC, said Prabha Urs, Deputy Director, Karnataka State Tribal Research Centre.

B. Arun Prabhu, Taluk Tribal Welfare Officer who inspected Kotnhalli Colony, said there are about 40 houses split into two hamlets and while 20 houses had power supply, the extended colony of another 20 houses lacked power connection. "It is strange that some of the houses close to the hamlet had power while 20 households were left out in an area about 1 km from the tiger reserve boundary and where human-animal conflict is high," said Mr. Prabhu.

In Karnataka, Jenu Kurubas and Koragas are covered under PM-JANMAN which is targeted at the PVTGs and the Centre has identified 75 such groups across the country with an outlay of ₹24,104 crore. In Karnataka, the population of PVTGs is pegged at 65,678 as per the 2011 Census and the PVTG communities are spread across Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada.

Child marriage stopped in Kolar district

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of police officers, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police M. Saraswathamma and officers of the Women and Child Development Department, on Saturday stopped the marriage of a 17-year-old girl at Madhavagurjenahalli in Kolar Rural police station limits.

Later, the police team handed over the girl to the Department of Women and Child Development, Kolar, and advised her parents not to conduct the marriage. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by inspector B. Shankaracharya swung into action and raided the place and rescued the girl amid high drama. Hundreds of people and relatives had gathered for the wedding. The police struggled hard to convince the parents and relatives and handed over the girl to the District Child Protection Officer on Saturday for counselling.

Following the Chief Minister's directions, the district police have stepped up vigil to ensure protection of women and girl children who are a vulnerable section of society.

KSRTC collects ₹5.4L fine for ticketless travel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In its drive against ticketless travel, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) conducted checks on its buses operated in the State and in neighbouring States during December 2023. The KSRTC, in a release, said that its vigilance squad checked 43,863 buses and detected 3,274 cases of pilferage, besides penalising 3,340 passengers for travelling without tickets, and collected a fine totalling ₹5,39,548 from them.

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Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/JE/2023-24/2265

Date : 19.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of Vijayanagar Dist Kudligi taluk 2 works under **Head for Account 4702** Plan MOT in Two Cover System **Maximum estimated amount is Rs. 87.31 lakhs and Minimum estimated amount is Rs. 77.96 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 20.01.2024 to 30.01.2024 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 01.02.2024 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 05.02.2024 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I.&G.W.D.Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/738/KSMCA/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Department Division, Belagavi.
PH No. 0831-243850 / FAX No. 0831-2423008

No. EE/MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/JE/2023-24/310 **Date: 19-01.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW- 4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Department Division, Belagavi has invited the Item rate **TENDER inTwo Cover System through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 20 Nos. of Belagavi/Gokak/Athani Sub Division works under 4702/Nabard/Atal Bhujal Head.** Estimate Amount Highest **Rs. 370.00 Lakhs** & Lowest **Rs. 110.00 Lakh**. **The work details can be obtained from 09-02-2024 to 16-02-2024 upto 16.00 hrs. 1. Pre bid meeting date 15-02.2024 at Morning 11.00 AM 2. Tender Receipt Last Date 16-02-2024 Evening 4.00 PM 3. Tender Opening Date 17-02-2024 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible) 4. for Tender Details office address Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Department Division, Belagavi. 5. Web Site Address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Belagavi/979/Adverto/2023-24 **M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN E-TENDER
COMMERCIAL BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS OFFICE
Tender No. NMRT/01/2024 Dated : 19.01.2024

For and on behalf of The President of India, acting through the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Head Quarters, Southern Railway, Park town, Chennai - 3 invites e-tender for the following works.

1.	Name of the work and its location	For operation of tourism based Nilgiri Mountain Train for a period of three years under two packed system
2.	Estimated cost of the work	Rs. 1,85,44,475 (Rupees One Crore eighty five lakhs forty four thousand four hundred seventy five only) Excl. GST (Per annum 52 trips)
3.	Completion Period of work	Three years from the date of commencement of operation.
4.	Type of TENDER	Two Packed open e-Tender
5.	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 2,42,800/-
6.	Date and Time of closing of Tender	Upto 15.00 Hrs of 09.02.2024
7.	Date of Time of opening of Tender	15.30 Hrs on 09.02.2024
8.	Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-/23-24/8770-71 Date: 20.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/23-24/EPR-28 CALL-02 Dated 22.12.2023 for tender for supply of 66kV, 240Sqmm straight through jointing kits for rectification of EHV Cable faults in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

The Bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'e Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 22.01.2024.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele, Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru–09. PH: 22386686-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING CENTURY ETHOS

This is to inform the general public that my clients Smt.Geetha J Malli and 27 others have filed a suit in O.S.No.8222/2023, on the file of the Honble XLIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bangalore City, Bangalore (CCH-44) against **M/s.Century Sheltors Developers Pvt Ltd., M/s.Century Shelters Developers Pvt Ltd., and M/s.Century Real Estate Holdings Pvt Ltd.,** and others who are developing the residential project **CENTURY ETHOS APARTMENTS** in the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder. The Honble Court was pleased to grant an order of temporary injunction restraining them from alienating / creating any encumbrance with respect to any portion of the Schedule Property. Therefore the general Public are hereby called upon not to enter into any nature of sale transaction with respect to the Schedule Property. In case any such transactions are entered into the same would be at their own risk and will be subject to the result of the said suit.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land property bearing Sy.No.107/3 measuring 0-36 ½ Guntas, Sy.No.116/3 measuring 0-22 Guntas and Sy.No.108/1 measuring 1 Acre 21 ½ Guntas totally measuring 3-00 Acres situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Additional Taluk, which is bounded on:

East by: Remaining portion of Sy.No.108/3 and 108/1
West by: Road & Byatarayanapura Gadi
North by: Part of Sy.Nos.116/2 & 107/2
South by: Remaining portion of Sy.No.108/1, 107/4, 107/5 & 107/6

B. S. RADHANANDAN Advocate
No.239/1, 4th Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018.
Phone: 26500612 Mobile: 9845009885
Email:nandaradha@yahoo.com

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED

E-TENDERS

Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited invites E-Tenders for the following projects @ www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Last Date of Bid Submission	PAC Amount
	Tender ID 2024_SCTLT_647437_1		
1	Selection of Contractor for City Beautification works - Kazhakuttom Railway Station, Technopark & adjoining areas - Upgrading to Smart Road by providing foot path to Technopark, U G ducting conduits, Solar street lights & C C camera surveillance to Sreekariyam Kazhakuttom via Kulathur road b/n Ch. 4/800 to 6/900 & Approach road to Kazhakuttom Railway station	30th January 2024	Rs.4,17,13,381/-

(sd/-) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 1954 Dated: 19-01-2024. **PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME TO JAMAKHANDI, KONNUR, NIPPANI & BAILHONGAL TOWNS UNDER AMRUT 2.O** including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. **(Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) INDENT NO:KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT128** For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

DIPR/Dwd/699/ DeshpandePublicity/2023-24

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

Govt. of Karnataka
Department of AYUSH

Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560009, T.No:080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139, Email : directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/77/Procurement/2023-24 Date: 20-01-2024

Tender Notification
(Through kpp portal only)

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bangalore for the supply of Medical equipments and books under SCSP/TSP Scheme to Directorate of AYUSH subordinate Institutions as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under. The Tender document will be available from **20-01-2024 on 5:30 p.m.** in the e- procurement portal of Karnataka **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last day of bid submission is **07-02-2024 upto 5.30p.m.** For further details may be viewed at above website.

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority) Directorate of Ayush, Danavantri Road, Bangalore-09

DIPR/CP/RO3146/AAPL/2023-24

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಡಿಎಂಎ/ಯುಪಿಎ/ಇಂಕ್ಯಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/01/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20.01.2024

Expression of Interest/Quotation

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ **Schedule of requirement of Equipment** ನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸ ಮೆನುವಿನಂತೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಲಕರಣಗಳ **Specification** ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **EOI/Quotation** ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡಿದ 07 ದಿನದೊಳಗೆ ಅಂದರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28.01.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸೇವಾ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಧಿ ಮೀರಿ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದ ನಗರ ಬಡತನ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕೋಶ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 080–22861665.

ಸಹಿ/–
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/3166/Zen/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ ECHS COMMAND HOSPITAL AIR FORCE BANGALORE
Phone No: 08029917023
Email. : stnhq.chafb@echs.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics Bangalore (Urban), ECHS Polyclinic Hassan & RC ECHS Bangalore & ECHS Referral Cell for a period of one year (upto 31 Mar 25, **renewal for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performace of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each:**

Sl. No.	Appointment	ECHS Polyclinic Bangalore (Urban)/CH Referral Cell	ECHS Polyclinic Hassan	Regional Centre Jalahalli	Fixed Remuneration
1	Medical officer	07	01	01	75,000-/pm
2	Dental Officer	02	01	--	75,000-/pm
3	Officer-in-Charge	01	01	--	75,000/-pm
4	Medical Specialist	02	--	--	1,00,000/-pm
5	Nursing Assistant	02	--	--	28,100/-pm
6	Pharmacist	03+01	01	--	28,100/-pm
7	Dental A/T/H	01	01	--	28,100/-pm
8	Lab Technician	02	01	--	28,100/-pm
9	Physiotherapist	01	--	--	28,100/-pm
10	Radiographer	01	--	--	28,100/-pm
11	Lab Assistant	01	--	--	28,100/-pm
12	Female Attendant	01	01	--	16,800/-pm
13	Safaiwala/Safaiwali	01	01	--	16,800/-pm
14	Driver	02	--	--	19,700/-pm
15	IT Network Technician	--	--	01	28,100/-pm
16	Peon	01+01	--	--	16,800/-pm
17	Clerk	02+01	01	--	19,700/-pm
18	Data Entry Operator	01	--	01	16,800/-pm

2. **For QRs, Terms and Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration :** Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in . For additional details, please contact Stn HQ ECHS Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore at Telephone No. **08029917023** & email ID **stnhq.chafb@echs.gov.in** Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen.

3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website**. Application as per requisite format along with self-attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualification and Work Experience will be submitted to OIC Stn HQ ECHS Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore by **29 Jan 24** in duplicate. Any application received after **29 Jan 24** will not be accepted.

4. **Interview Date Timing and Venue**. Candidate must reach Stn HQ ECHS Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore at 0930 Hrs on **09 Feb 24** for the interview to the post mentioned at Sl No. 01 to 04, on **10 Feb 24** for Sl No. 05-18. Interview will be held from 1030 Hrs onwards. Candidates must bring all the original certificates/marksheets/degrees of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post Graduation/Diploma/Course, Work Experience and discharge book, PPO, Service records at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidates meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

No. E-RD 05 GRC 2024 **Date:09.01.2024**

CORRIGENDUM

In the Government Notification No. E-RD 172 GRC 2022, Dated: 29.03.2023, regarding notification for attachment of immovable properties under Sub-Sec (2) of Section 3 of the KPIDFE Act 2004, believed to be belonging to Sri Vasista Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd., Bengaluru. the following Corrigendum is issued as follows.

i) In Serial No.9 of Column No. 2 of the Annexure-1, The extent of the Land Should be read as:

Instead of	To be read as
ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 30 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 60 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು : 1800 ಚದರಡಿ	ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ : 120 ಅಡಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : 60 ಅಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು : 7200 ಚದರಡಿ

ii) In Serial No.9 of Column No. 4 of the Annexure-1 The details of the property documents should be read as:

Instead of	To be read as
ಸಿಸಿ ಎಫ್ 844 90–95 ನಂ 1767 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–07–2000.	ರಿ.ನಂ.1767/2000–2001, ದಿ:12–07–2000, ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ವಿಭಾಗ ಪತ್ರ

iii) In Serial No.9 of Column No 7 of the Annexure -1, The remarks should be read as:

Instead of	To be read as
ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.02.2020 ರಂದು 21,00,00,000/– ರೂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.	ಶ್ರೀ ಶಂಕರ ಕೆ.ಎನ್ ರವರು ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಒಟ್ಟು 21.00ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿ ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯ ರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈಗ ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರ ರಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮೂಲ ಲೋನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ಡಿಯನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು ರಿ.ನಂ.6509/2016–17 ದಿ:22/11/2016 ರಂತೆ ದೂಷಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಅಡಮಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Rest of the contents of the above said Notification (Including Annexure-1) Dated: 29.03.2023 remains unchanged.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/3151/2023-24

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. 03/2024
Dated :13-01-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.

Description in brief : Relay Testing Kit for testing of static / Electromagnetic / Microprocessor based Numerical Relay in 25 KV AC Traction **(Tender No. L8245079) (Qty : 04 Nos.)**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 08-02-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/633/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr. K. Suresh Babu and others** have instructed me to investigate the title of the Immovable Property forming a portion of Survey No.218/3, New Survey No.218/11, situated in Muthasandra Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, with an extent of 0-10 Guntas out of 0-20 Guntas of land, belonging to **Mr. B. M. Manjunatha, Son of Munikrishnappa,** more fully described in the Schedule hereunder written. Notice is hereby given to the general public that all persons including individuals, Bank/s, financial institution/s, creditor/s etc., etc., having or asserting any benefits, objections, demands, claims, share, right, title and/or interest in respect of the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **(10) Ten days** from the date of this publication, and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients, and my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property forming a portion of **Survey No.218/3, New Survey No.218/11,** situated in **Muthasandra Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk,** with an extent of 0-10 Guntas out of 0-20 Guntas of land, bounded on the :

East by : Land belonging to Krishna Murthy (La Hi218/8), West by : Remaining portion in the same Sy No.(Block No. I), North by : 20 Feet Road (Block No. I) and South by : Land belongs to Krishna Reddy (La Hi218/4).

RAMESH D SHAH, ADVOCATE
No.1, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Meenakshi Koil St., Cross, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051.
E-mail:rame3003@gmail.com
Bangalore Date : 20/01/2024

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-3 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/69/2023 Dated : 05-09-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Jamkhandi Road (incl.) and Jagadal (incl.) for a length of 20.585 km under Bagalkot - Kudachi New Line Project (142 Km) including Signal & Telecommunication & Electrical Works. **(Tender Ref. No : JAMKHANDIROAD-JAGADAL-EPC)**	Rs. 422,46,37,345/-

Bid Due Date

Existing	Revised
03-02-2024 (11:00 Hrs)	**03-04-2024 (11:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/635/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone ,BBMP Office Building, C A No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road - Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore-560060

No: EE/KEN/TEND/15/2023-24 **Date: 19.01.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Tender Notification) (Two Cover System) CALL-1
(Through e-Procurement Portal GoK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri division invites tenders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Put to Tender Amount (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No-26 Doddabidarakallu for the year 2023-24 **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	21.16	50,000/-
2	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No-27 Lingadheeranahalli for the year 2023- 24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	21.16	50,000/-
3	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No-28 Herohalli for the year 2023-24 **(Reservation of Works to :** ST)	21.18	25,000/-
4	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No-29 Ullalu for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	21.18	50,000/-
5	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No. 30 Nagadevanahalli for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** SC)	21.18	25,000/-
6	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No. 31 Bande Mutt for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	21.18	50,000/-
7	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No. 32 Kengeri for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** SC)	21.18	25,000/-
8	Improvements and Maintenance of Footpath in Ward No. 33 Hemmigepura for the year 2023-24 **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	21.18	50,000/-
9	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in Ward No.26 Doddabidarakallu for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	5.70	14,500/-
10	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in Ward No.27 Lingadheeranahalli for the year 2023- 24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	5.70	14,500/-
11	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in Ward No.28 of Herohalli for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	5.75	14,500/-
12	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in ward No.29 Ullalu for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	5.76	14,500/-
13	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in ward No.30 Nagadevanahalli for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** SC)	5.76	7,300/-
14	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in ward No.31 Bunde Mutt for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** Others)	5.76	14,500/-
15	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in Ward No.32 Kengeri for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** SC)	5.76	7,300/-
16	Maintenance and repairs to Water supply assets in Ward No.33 Hemmigepura for the year 2023-24. **(Reservation of Works to :** ST)	5.75	7,300/-

Time Schedule/Calendar of events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from : 24.01.2024 from 4.00PM. 2) Last date & Time for receipt of Tenders : 03.02.2024 Upto 4.00PM. 3) Opening of Bids : 05.02.2024 at 4.00PM.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division

Fake Mysore Sandal soap case: KSDL raid exposes decade-long operation leaving it poorer by ₹500 cr.-₹600 cr.

On examination, officials said the counterfeit soaps lacked good quality sandalwood oil and contained heavy metals

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

It has now emerged that the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap production facility in Hyderabad, that was raided recently, had been in operation for a decade without coming to notice of the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL). Investigation has now estimated that the unit had a turnover in the range of ₹500 crore-₹600 crore since it started, which is the quantum of loss to KSDL.

Along with the Telangana police, officials from KSDL carried out a recent raid on the counterfeit manufacturing facility producing fake Mysore Sandal soap. During the operation, Hyderabad residents Rakesh Jain and Mahaveer Jain were apprehended and charged for the production of counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap and other KSDL products.

On January 12, following the direction from M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development and also KSDL chairman, B. Prem Kumar, branch manager of Hyderabad KSDL, approached the police based on the tip-off the Minister had received.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister M.B. Patil at the launch of the new products of Karnataka Soap and Detergents Ltd. at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Prior investigation

According to officials, prior to contacting the police, the KSDL conducted an investigation into duplicate products and the manufacturing unit. They purchased counterfeit products amounting to ₹5 lakh and subjected them to testing. Despite being unable to determine the location of the fake product manufacturing unit, KSDL staff strategically placed an order for soaps valued at ₹25 lakh. Under the guise of picking up the consignment, they successfully reached the facility where the counterfeit soaps were being produced.

During the operation, the police seized 20 cartons containing three-soap packs, each weighing 150 gm (totalling 1,800 pieces), as well as 47 cartons for each soap weighing 75 grams (amounting to 9,400 pieces). Additionally, empty packing boxes for 150-gram Mysore Sandal soap (400 pieces) and empty packing boxes for 75-gram Mysore Sandal soap (400 pieces) were also seized.

Upon examination in the KSDL laboratory, officials determined that the counterfeit soaps lacked good quality sandal oil and contained heavy metals. The individuals operating the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap manufacturing unit were also involved in the production of other well-known branded products, including ghee and coconut oil, said officials.

New products released

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday released 21 new soaps and detergents products manufactured by KSDL. He told the KSDL management to manufacture soaps according to the tastes of consumers and market them.

KSDL has made a profit of ₹182 core till now in this fiscal year against ₹132 crore in 2022-23, he said.

State launches 'Browse Safe', a free tool to protect citizens from cyber frauds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka launched a security net initiative to safeguard people from all kinds of cyber frauds. The State's Centre of Excellence for Cyber Security introduced 'Browse Safe', a free-to-use online safety service on Saturday to ensure digital safety for citizens.

'Browse Safe' is a public Domain Name System (DNS), a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, to protect individual and household users of the Internet from falling prey to cyber attackers, said a statement.

'Browse Safe' blocks malicious websites as its functionalities prevent Internet traffic from accessing harmful websites, including phishing sites, malware or viruses, and sites attempting to steal personal information, according to Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT/BT, RDPR.

If a citizen receives an SMS/WhatsApp message or email that contains a phishing link and you click on the link, the 'Browse Safe' solution will block the website and protect them from falling prey to cyber attacks, he added.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge launching 'Browse Safe' in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

If a citizen receives an SMS/WhatsApp message or email that contains a phishing link and you click on the link, the 'Browse Safe' solution will block the website

'Browse Safe' also offers provision to block adult content to safeguard children while exploring the online sphere.

It is also a service that keeps user privacy in mind, and collects minimal user activity data, strictly excluding any personal or private information. Robust security measures are in place to safeguard the collected data from unauthorised access or misuse, according to a statement released by the department.

How to access

To block malicious websites, use this DNS server: 139.5.190.47

To block malicious and adult websites, use this DNS server: 139.5.190.57

Users can also install the Browse Safe app from Google Playstore to configure the DNS servers on their Android device.

BJP urges State govt. to declare holiday tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka unit of the BJP wants the Congress government in the State to declare a holiday on January 22 so that people can watch the consecration of the idol of Lord Ram in Ayodhya.

On Saturday, State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra said: "January 22 is set to be an unforgettable day and of immense significance in our country's history." He urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to acknowledge the importance of the day. "A day's holiday would allow crores of devotees to witness this landmark occasion with their family and perform pooja," he said.

Kota Srinivas Poojary, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, had written to the Chief Minister making a similar demand.

State's contribution

Mr. Vijayendra said that people from Karnataka had contributed to the construction of the temple as well as in arrangements for the ceremony on January 22 in multiple ways. The sculptor of the 51-inch idol of Ram Lalla is Arun Yogiraj from Mysuru while several other sculptors, suppliers of stones and businessmen from Karnataka dealing in electric equipment have been part of the temple construction and the upcoming event.

Between January 31 and March 25, devotees from Karnataka will be visiting Ayodhya in 25 trains at their own expense, and arrangements have been made for their stay there, he claimed. Former MLC Siddaraju will be the co-ordinator of this initiative, he added. There will be rail pramukhs and bogie pramukhs to take care of the pilgrims. Already, BJP leaders have arranged six special trains to Ayodhya on the day of the consecration.

Mr. Vijayendra urged the government to ensure adequate security arrangements on January 22.

He pointed out that senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad had flagged off the possibility of disturbance on the day. Mr. Hariprasad, who has been sulking over not being given a ministerial berth and is often making controversial statements targeting the Congress government, had said that a 'Godhra-like incident' could happen on the day, but failed to corroborate the claim. Home Minister G. Parameshwara dismissed any such possibility.

GTD to build Ram temple in Gujjegowdanapura

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

G.T. Deve Gowda, Chamundeshwari MLA, said on Saturday that a temple for Sri Ram will be built at the place in Gujjegowdanapura from where the black stone was extracted for sculpting the idol at Ayodhya.

Speaking to pressperson, Mr. Deve Gowda said special prayers and groundbreaking ceremony for the temple construction will be held on January 22, to coincide with the Pranapratishtapana of the Ram Lalla idol at Ayodhya.

He said the temple will be constructed using donations from the public. The village is in Jayapura hobli of Mysuru district, about 25 km from the city.

The holiday would allow crores to watch the consecration of the idol of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, said BYV

Some BJP leaders making provocative statements: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the backdrop of the Ram temple inauguration programme in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed the police to take preventive measures to ensure that no untoward incidents occurs.

"It has come to my attention that some miscreants are spreading false news and provoking innocent people," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a statement, adding that people who come across such things should not panic but immediately inform the police.

"Under no circumstances should anyone take the law into their own hands," he said.

Reacting to BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra's statement that if any unfortunate incident occurs in the State, the Congress government will be held responsible, he said: "It seems to contain more of a threat and provocation than an intention to maintain peace. The government is aware of its duties."

"The State government has noticed that some BJP legislators and MPs are already making provocative statements. If the BJP State president takes strict action against such individuals, it would ease the government's task," he further said.

The Chief Minister said God, religion, worship, and devotion should remain personal matters. "If these are kept personal, it will bring respect to God and religion, and welfare to society. This applies to followers of all religions," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Moral policing: Seven held

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A case of moral policing has come to light in Haveri district in Byadgi police station limits. The incident happened on Friday when a Muslim woman was talking to her colleague belonging to Hindu faith. A group of youths allegedly manhandled her. SP Haveri Anshu Kumar said seven persons were arrested.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

T S LAKSHMI
B. Sc. M. A. M. Ed.
Govt High School Teacher - Retired
Attained Shivaloka Prapthi on 13th Jan 2024
Final Rituals on Jan 21,22 & 25th @ VISWAM TOWER
W10 / W389 / 9G, 3rd Flr , School Rd, Anna Nagar west extn,
on Jan 23 & 24 (11th & 12th day)
@ GNANAVAPI Nr T.Nagar Bus stand
Shankaran V : 9444223836

DEATH

DOB: 02-10-1938

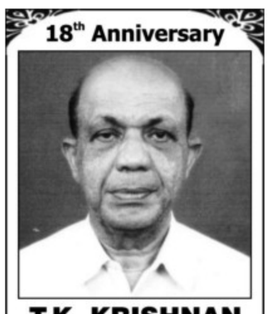
DOD: 18-01-2024
SHANTHI AYYASAMY, B.A.
Deeply mourned by
Family members, Relatives & Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Fond Memory of
Mr. V.S.K. DURAISWAMY NADAR, M.A.,

THIRTY NINTH ANNIVERSARY
21.01.2024
Ever Loving
D. ANANDA RAJAN
Family Members
D. MANOHARA RAJAN
Family Members
D. GUNASEELA RAJAN
Family Members

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

18th Anniversary

T.K. KRISHNAN
Fondly remembered by
Family & Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY
DOB 12.09.1954

DOD 21.01.2016
R.SAI SANKAR
Fondly remembered by
Family & staff of
Southern Gasket Products,
Naveen Gaskets Pvt Ltd.
Cell : 9884078578
Estd : 1981 , Chennai.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-3054/2023-24/4295
Dated:19.01.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement)
The- Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 3 works, As per standard bid documents KW-3 and 4 with 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements and 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance head of account costing of amount for Rs. 500.00 Lakhs to Rs. 70.00, the EMD amount of Rs.7,50,000.00 to 1,75,000.00 for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date- 22-01-2024 upto 11.00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 29-01-2024 upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-31-01-2024 at 11:00 AM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-01-02-2024 at 11.00 AM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/405/KSMCA/2023-24

City Municipal Council Sagar-577401
Website: www.sagaracity.mrc.gov.in Ph.08183-226021
Email: ka.sagar.cmc@gmail.com
No.: CMCS:AEE/Works/190/2023-24 Date: 16.01.2024
Tender Notice (Through E-Procurement)
City Municipal Council Sagar invites Itemwar Tender as per KW2 Rules for implementing development works under Auction of corner sites in Ashraya Layout Grant. Contractors having obtained the contractor license of eligible class from Public Works Department can quote their minimum rates and submit Tender through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details and conditions can be obtained through http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in **1)** Last date for submission of filled tender: 05.02.2024 up to 5.30 PM **2)** Date of opening the tender: 07.02.2024 at 5.30 PM, If not possible due to unforeseen reasons, it will be opened on the next working day of the office.
Package No.: 1. Indent No.: DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11564 **Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs):** 40.00
Package No.: 2. **Indent No.:** DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11568 **Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs):** 50.00
Package No.: 3. **Indent No.:** DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11570 **Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs):** 50.00
Package No.: 4. **Indent No.:** DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11575 **Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs):** 50.00
Conditions: 1. If there are any Corrections and changes regarding the tender they will be published in KPPP portal. **2.** G.S.T. will be paid as per Government Rules. **3**. Further details can be obtained in website of City Municipal Council http://www.sagarcity.gov.in and from the Technical Section during office hours.
Sd/- Municipal CommissionerCity Municipal Council, Sagar
DIPR/smg/No.104/1/ksmca/23-24/1094

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Inviting applications from Madrasa to give Formal and Computerized Education for registered Madrasa for the year 2023-24.
Online Application
Online applications are invited from Madrasa to give Formal and Computerized Education for registered Madrasa for the year 2023-24.
Eligibility
1. Madrasa should be registered in the state under Waqf/any other society act.
2. There should be an approximate 40 eligible students in Madrasa.
3. Madrasa should have class rooms and residential facility for students.
Last date
Last date for submission of Online application Extended upto 31/01/2024.
Instructions to Applicants
Institutions (Madrasas) are requested to submit their online application by clicking the link provided on website to avail the benefit of "Formal & Computerized education for registered madrasa for the year 2023-24 and Madrasas are advised to submit their proposal to the office of the District Minority Officer of their respective districts.
Date: 20.01.2024
Sd/- Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3160/MAA/2023-24

SUNDAY
January 21, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
34 Pages ₹ 8.00

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|| जय श्री राम || || जय श्री राम || || जय श्री राम || || जय श्री राम ||

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Sri M Goutham Chand Bafna,
(Managing Director)

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Shortage of elephants pushes their rent up in Kerala

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The festival industry in Kerala, a State popular for festivals featuring mighty jumbos, is under immense pressure following huge demand for elephants with good 'body features'. This has also pushed up the cost of organising festivals.

There has been a 100% to 200% increase in the rental charges of celebrity elephants with good physical traits. Like the 'flexi fares' of airlines, the charges can go up for a day with several festivals. Though around 250 captive elephants are available for festivals, around 50 elephants with good physical attributes rule the industry. The rates for celebrity elephants also have a cascading effect on other elephants, says Valsan Champakkara, secretary, Kerala Festival Coordination Committee.

Elephants with physical attributes such as a trunk that touches the ground, broad forehead, long tail, fleshy stomach, large earlobes, forehead with a high density of white-reddish spots, long tusks which curve slightly upward – a speciality of south Indian elephants – 18 white nails, and imposing height are some of the body traits that decide the celebrity status of an elephant.

Jumbo issue: The average rent of a majestic elephant is anywhere between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh during peak festival season. K.K. NAJEEB

Jumbos alone account for one-third of the entire festival expenses.

The average rent of a majestic elephant is anywhere between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh during peak festival season and it can touch ₹7 lakh on days with many festivals.

The rate of an ordinary elephant charged ₹50,000 normally will go up to ₹1 lakh on auspicious days. The festivals in the State, especially central Kerala, normally feature five to 50 elephants.

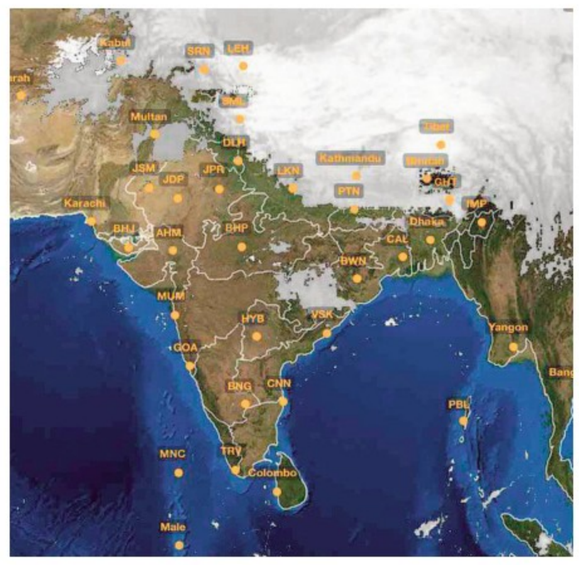
"Considering the number of festivals, which is pegged at 6,000, and the relatively smaller number of mighty elephants, one can assume the cost of festivals," said Mr. Champakkara.

"The huge fan following for celebrity elephants often leads to heated arguments," says V.K. Venkitachalam, general secretary, the Heritage Elephant Task Force.

The shortage comes at a time when animal rights groups, including PETA India, have called for ending the use of captive elephants in festivals for the sake of the health of both elephants and humans.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.6	11.4	Kozhikode	—	34.8	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	27.7	14.4	Kurnool	—	33.5	21.5
Aizawl	—	23.4	8.5	Lucknow	—	11.8	8.1
Allahabad	—	16.3	6.3	Madurai	0.5	28.0	22.6
Bengaluru	—	29.5	17.8	Mangaluru	—	31.8	23.4
Bhopal	—	21.7	9.0	Mumbai	—	28.7	17.9
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	18.0	Mysuru	—	31.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	15.4	10.8	New Delhi	—	17.7	8.5
Chennai	—	31.0	23.9	Patna	—	19.2	8.4
Coimbatore	—	30.7	23.0	Port Blair	—	30.4	23.4
Dehradun	—	18.0	7.8	Puducherry	—	30.0	24.0
Gangtok	—	13.4	4.9	Pune	—	31.1	15.4
Goa	—	32.0	20.5	Raipur	—	24.8	16.3
Guwahati	—	24.8	9.4	Ranchi	—	23.2	8.8
Hubballi	—	33.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.6	4.5
Hyderabad	—	30.6	19.6	Shimla	—	14.2	5.0
Imphal	—	22.3	3.1	Srinagar	—	12.4	-3.7
Jaipur	—	20.0	5.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	24.6
Kochi	—	31.8	26.8	Tiruchi	—	31.3	24.4
Kohima	—	16.4	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.1	20.6
Kolkata	—	21.0	13.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	21.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	14	.33	125	106	
Bengaluru	4	31	.53	85	137	
Chennai	.10	12	.87	102	129	
Delhi	.22	164	.67	365	294	
Hyderabad	2	34	.47	55	78	
Kolkata	.17	68	.38	271	159	
Lucknow	7	28	.80	224	168	
Mumbai	8	43	.53	222	198	
Pune	114	165	110	64	72	
Visakhapatnam	.11	36	.45	85	116	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chandigarh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 373 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Interest-free crop loans given to nearly 20 lakh farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka government has disbursed ₹15,841.48 crore interest-free crop loans to 19.97 lakh farmers so far this year, an increase of ₹776.48 crore compared to 2022-23. The government has set a target to disburse ₹24,600 crore crop loans without bank interest this year. The interest-free loans are likely to benefit a large number of farmers who have been suffering from drought in 223 taluks of the State.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, on Saturday held meetings with close to a dozen departments and discussed various proposals with Ministers to be included in the State Budget, which will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 16.

Mr. Siddaramaiah held discussions with Ministers and officials of the departments such as Health and Family Welfare, Horticulture, Mines and Geology, Planning, Higher Education, Water Resources, Forests, and Environment, and Cooperation.

Sources said that Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to hold more meetings in the coming days to discuss various projects and schemes to be included in the Budget.

KPCC media wing vice-chairman and MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda, in a press release, said crops on more than 48,000 hectares had been affected and the Budget is expected to provide more relief to drought-hit farmers.

Modi visits Srirangam and Rameswaram temples in T.N.

Prime Minister to head for Dhanushkodi and Arichalmunai today; he will then leave for Madurai and later take a flight to Ayodhya for the *pran pratishtha* ceremony on Monday

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI/RAMESWARAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam in Tiruchi on Saturday, ahead of the *pran pratishtha* (idol installation) of Sri Ram Lalla at the Ayodhya temple on January 22.

The presiding deity of Srirangam, Sri Ranganathar, is believed to be the family deity of Lord Ram.

Mr. Modi arrived at the Tiruchi International Airport by a special aircraft from Chennai in the morning and switched over to a helicopter to proceed to Srirangam. He landed at a temporary helipad near the Kollidam river bank and then drove to the temple, greeting enthusiastic residents and party workers, who had gathered in strength along the way.

Warm welcome: People greet PM Narendra Modi during his visit to Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, on Saturday. M. MOORTHY

He was welcomed with temple honours by the priests at the Ranganathaswamy Temple, where he spent about one hour and 20 minutes. He spent some time at the 'Kambar Mandapam', where a seven-member team of musicians and Tamil scholars recited selected verses from the *Kamba Ramayanam*, the epic as scripted in Tamil by poet Kambar.

Later, he left for Rameswaram by helicopter. At Rameswaram, he took a holy dip at the 'Agnitheertham' on the eastern beach of the Ramanathaswamy Temple. He then witnessed special pujas at the temple.

After an overnight stay at the Ramakrishna Math in Rameswaram, he will proceed to Dhanushkodi and Arichalmunai on Sunday. Later, he will take a helicopter to Madurai, from where he will fly to Ayodhya, officials added.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

HELMET SAVE LIVES

ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET
AND FASTEN IT PROPERLY

Correct helmet use is defined as strapped use of a full-face or non-full face helmet. Cap helmet is not permitted by law.

Securely fastening/strapping of helmets is mandatory according to Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Not wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers is a punishable offence under Section 194D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Sri Ramalinga Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department at a Departmental Programme

* https://ksp.karnataka.gov.in/storage/pdf-files/Road_Accident_Report_2022.pdf

25%*
OF ALL ROAD CRASH FATALITIES IN KARNATAKA IN 2022 WERE CAUSED BY TWO-WHEELER RIDERS NOT WEARING HELMETS

2,293*
TWO-WHEELER RIDERS DIED IN FATAL ROAD CRASHES DUE TO NOT WEARING HELMETS IN 2022

10%*
INCREASE SEEN IN NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO NOT WEARING HELMETS IN 2022 AS COMPARED TO 2021

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Road Safety - Our Priority

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Secretary,
Transport Department

Yogeesh A.M. I.A.S.
Commissioner,
Transport & Road Safety

J. Purushotham
Additional Commissioner & Member Secretary,
Karnataka State Road Safety Authority

M BG-BGE

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1,
BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002

No:BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/2825/2023-24 **Date: 18.01.2024**

NOTIFICATION

FORM-1 (Under Sec 14B(4)(i))

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B (4) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, for **Formation of Swamy Vivekananda Road from ITPL Main Road to Whitefield Main Road (SH-35) via Brigade Tech Park as per RMP-2015 for the width of 18.00 Mtrs. (Ch:00.00m to 1560.00Mtrs).** It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz. (i) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (v) Conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar Band etc., in person in the place within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Date and time
The Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR) Room No: 208, 2nd Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru - 560002.	Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, **Mahadevapura Division,** BBMP	30 days from the date of Notification Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the **Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.**

The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as DR (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

SCHEDULE

"Acquisition of land required for **Formation of Swamy Vivekananda Road from ITPL Main Road to Whitefield Main Road (SH-35) via Brigade Tech Park as per RMP-2015 for the width of 18.00 Mtrs. (Ch:00.00m to 1560.00Mtrs).**

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Pattanduru Agrahara**

Sl No.	Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land: Vacant	Type of Land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture	Nature of Land: Converted undeveloped	Nature of Land: Approved Layout / developed Land Building Site	Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M: Dimension	Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M: Extent	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: North	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: South	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: East	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: West	Building Details: Extent in Sq.M	Building Details: Type of Construction & No.of Floors	Building Details: Floor Area Ratio	Present Activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M: Agriculture/B-Khatha	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M: Converted Undeveloped	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M: A-Khatha Developed Site	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for Which DRC is to be issued / already issued
1	Sy. No: 134/1	Vacant		-			427.42		Road	Sy No. 134/2	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy .No.134/1	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Jagabeer Singh S/o Late. S.Ranga Beer Singh
2	Sy. No: 134/2	Vacant		-			123.55		Sy No. 134/1	Sy No. 134/3	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy .No.134/2	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Jagabeer Singh S/o Late. S.Ranga Beer Singh
3	Sy. No: 134/3	Vacant		-			87.24		Sy No. 134/2	Sy No. 134/4	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy .No.134/3	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Bebi Abraham W/o P.O Abraham
4	Sy. No: 134/4	Vacant		-			58.95		Sy No. 134/3	Sy No.134/5	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 134/4	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Bebi Abraham W/o P.O Abraham
5	Sy No.134/5	Vacant		-			13.9		Sy No. 134/4	Sy No.133	Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 134/5	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	B. Ramachandra Naidu S/o Shakunthalabai
6	Sy No.133	Vacant		-			99.64		Sy No.135	Remaining Portion of Sy No.133	Sy No.132	Remaining Portion of Sy No.133	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	M.Ramachandran and M/s.Ramaiah Developers & amp; amp; Builders Pvt.ltd.,
7	Sy No.135	Vacant		-			1500.38		Remaining Portion of Sy No.135 & Road	Sy No.133 & 132	Sy No.135 & Sy No.136	Road & Sy No.134	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	K.P Shankar Nayar & Governmet Property
8	Sy No.136/1	Vacant		-			997.11		Remaining Portion of Sy No.136	Sy No.132	Sy No.137	Sy No.135	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	K.P Shankar Nayar
9	Sy No.137	Vacant		-			773.07 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.137	Sy No.132	Sy No.138	Sy No.136	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	K.P Shankar Nayar & Others
10	Sy No.132	Vacant		-			1002.51 Sqm		Sy No. 135, 136/1,137,138	Remaining Portion of Sy No.132	Sy No. 143/1	Sy No.133	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	R.V Thampan S/o H.R Narayan
11	Sy No.138	Vacant		-			581.74 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.138	Road	Sy No. 143/1	Sy No.137	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	G.R Engineering
12	Sy No.143/1	Vacant		-			1332.78 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.143/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No.143/1	Sy No. 143/2	Road	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	P.C.D Nambiyar and J.Chandrashekar S/o Jagannath
13	Sy No.143/2	Vacant		-			784.61 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.143/2 & Sy No. 141/3	Remaining Portion of Sy No.143/2	Sy No. 144/1 & Sy No.141/3	Road	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Jogi S Bar S/o Balwanth Singh
14	Sy No.141/3	Vacant		-			57.56 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.141/3	Sy No.143/2	Sy No. 141/1A	Road	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Jakub Mathra and Annamma Mathra
15	Sy No.141/1B	Vacant		-			162.96 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.141/1B	Road	Sy No. 141/1A	Sy No. 141/1A	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Lakshmidevi W/o Late.Shrinivasa
16	Sy No.141/1A	Vacant/ Building		-			445.83 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 141/1A	Road	Road & Sy No.10/7	Sy No. 141/3	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	B.P Kuroop and Others
17	Sy No.144/1	Vacant/ Building		-			349.42 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.144/1	Sy No. 144/2	Sy No. 143/2	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	A.Ramesh Rao S/o A Lakshminarayan
18	Sy No.144/2	Vacant		-			374.93 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.144/2	Road	Sy No. 144/1	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Venugopal and Others
19	Sy No.10/7	Vacant/ Building		-			147.65 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/7	Road	Sy No.10/6	Sy No. 141/1A	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Swamiyal Thamas
20	Sy No.6/1B	Vacant/ Building		-			281.59 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.6/1B	Sy No.6/1A	Road	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	B.M Beeramuddin S/o Hali Vimusakanhiya
21	Sy No.10/6	Vacant/ Building		-			178.38 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/6	Road	Sy No.10/5	Sy No.10/7	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	K.T Myadhyus
22	Sy No.10/5	Vacant/ Building		-			175.57 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/5	Road	Sy No.10/4	Sy No.10/6	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	O.C Jhon
23	Sy No.10/4	Vacant/ Building		-			183.44 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/4	Road	Sy No.10/3	Sy No.10/5	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	D.D Convilkar
24	Sy No.6/1A	Vacant		-			779.64 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.6/1A	Sy No.7/2	Sy No.6/1B	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Thakesh D Malagankar and Others
25	Sy No.10/3	Vacant/ Building		-			220.00 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/3	Road	Sy No.10/2	Sy No.10/4	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	K.Jajru Thamas
26	Sy No.10/2	Vacant/ Building		-			153.86 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/2	Road	Sy No.10/1	Sy No.10/3	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	F.V.A Skaddar
27	Sy No.10/1	Vacant		-			153.75 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.10/1	Road	Sy No.9	Sy No.10/2	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	Sri.Cristofer. S Irland S/o L.T Irland
28	Sy No.7/2	Vacant		-			187.55 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.7/2	Sy No.7/1A	Sy No.6/1A	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	D.D Malagankar
29	Sy No.7/1A	Vacant/ Building		-			6.60 Sqm		Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.7/1A	Sy No.8	Sy No.7/2	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	T.Vijayakumar
30	Sy No.8	Vacant/ Building		-			915.63 Sqm		Remaining Portion of Sy No.8 & Sy No.9	Remaining Portion of Sy No.8	Road	Sy No.7/2 & Sy No.7/1A	-	-	-	-	19,768/-	31,500/-	45,000/-	C.M Sikviryu

- The Market value of Land shall be subject to land conversion and development status to be decided at Form-III stage based on production of documents from the Land Owners.
- The Building extent shall be verified at the time of Form-III Public Notice stage based on the Building Valuation and Benefits of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner, BBMP

From Page One

Wetland 'nature tourism' gets a fillip

The scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Union government Ministries and agencies, State wetland authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals.

The aim is to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the nature-tourism potential of such sites.

The Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are training facilitators, tourism service providers, stakeholders for strengthening of nature tourism at Ramsar sites in association with the State Tourism Department.

Training programme

As part of the mission, a total of 30 participants have been trained for 15 days under the Alternative Livelihood Programme (ALP) at Sultanpur (Haryana), Yashwant Sagar and Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh).

At Bhitarkanika and Chilika in Odisha, two training programmes of 15 days each – the ALP and Paryatan Navik Certificate (boatman certification for tourism) – will soon be completed. A total of 60 participants (30 for each course) are being trained at these sites.

"We are trying to train boatmen, local artisans as well as shopkeepers double up as guides who can explain the importance of these wetlands and the flora and fauna available there," the Tourism Ministry said.

'High-value' versus 'nature'

The tourism industry identifies high-value travellers as those who are likely to spend more, stay longer, and disperse beyond tourist hotspots.

Nature tourism on the other hand is tourism based on the natural attractions of an area like birdwatching, photography, stargazing, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and visiting parks. These are experiential tourists who are interested in a diversity of natural and cultural resources.

"Wetlands are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and services. Hence it is important that we focus on nature tourism at these Ramsar sites," a senior Tourism Ministry official told *The Hindu*.

ED questions Soren in tribal land scam case

Sources said that over 100 questions were asked to Mr. Soren and he replied politely. The agency is likely to approach Mr. Soren for a second round of questioning.

Once ED officials left his residence, Mr. Soren came out with a smile and met the supporters who were sitting outside his residence since morning. He waved to his supporters, who shouted slogans in his support.

"Our Opposition is trying to dominate us with the help of ED and other investigating agencies, but we are not afraid of anything because we have not done anything wrong. We will face all the conspiracies of the Central government and will win this fight," Mr. Soren said.

The ED first summoned Mr. Soren for questioning in August 2023.

"Conspiracy is being hatched to dethrone our government. Conspiracy is being done to conquer our land, but we will fight against all those powers who want to snatch our forest, our land and our houses. The people of Jharkhand have made this government and it will stand tall. It is time to put the final nail in their coffin, don't worry. We must be united to fight the power which is trying to dominate us," Mr. Soren said.

India-Myanmar border to be fenced soon, says Amit Shah

The Home Minister says the government is reconsidering its free movement agreement with Myanmar; he adds that the country will be rid of the Naxal problem in next three years; accuses Congress of fanning bribe culture for govt. jobs

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Union government will soon fence the 1,643-km border between India and Myanmar, and will consider ending the free movement regime (FMR) agreement with the neighbouring country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

The FMR, implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East Policy, allowed residents of both countries living along the border to travel up to 16 km into each other's territory without a visa. Ending the agreement will restrict this movement.

Honorary gesture: Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated during the 60th Raising Day ceremony of the Sashastra Seema Bal in Tezpur on Saturday. PTI

'No free movement'

"I want to tell my friends in Assam that the Narendra Modi government has decided to fence India's open border along with Myanmar just as we have fenced the country's border along with Bangladesh," Mr. Shah said at the passing-out parade of 2,551 Assam Police commandos in Guwahati.

Much of India's 4,096-km border with Bangladesh has been double-fenced to stop the unauthorised entry of people into India, a major concern for the northeastern States, especially Assam.

"The government is also reconsidering India's FMR agreement with Myanmar and will soon end the free movement into India," Mr. Shah said.

Manipur wants the Myanmar border to be fenced, and the free entry of Myanmar nationals, accused of stoking the ongoing ethnic conflict, stopped.

Mizoram and Nagaland, on the other hand, are against the dual move on the Myanmar front as the people on either side of the International Border in those States belong to the same ethnic communities.

Some 30,000 Chin people from civil war-torn Myanmar have also taken shelter in Mizoram since February 2021.

'100% Naxal-free'

While addressing the 60th Foundation Day of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in north-central Assam's Tezpur earlier in the day, Mr. Shah said the entire country would be 100% free from the Naxal problem within the next three years under the Narendra Modi-led government.

He accused the Congress of having kept alive both Naxalism and the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also slammed the previous Congress regime for fanning the culture of paying bribes to get government jobs, which he said was now a thing of the past.

On the *Pran Pratistha* ceremony for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, he said that Lord Ram would return home after 550 "disrespectful" years.

12 in Kashmir chargesheeted in Pandit killing case

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The J&K Police State Investigation Agency (SIA), on Saturday, filed a chargesheet against 12 persons in connection with the murder of a Kashmiri Pandit, Sanjay Sharma, in south Kashmir's Pulwama district in February 2023.

A police spokesperson said the targeted killing was "aimed to disrupt the revival of peace and communal harmony in the Valley, using the murder of an innocent person from the minority community".

Sharma was shot dead in Achhan, Pulwama, on February 26, 2023. The police said the investigation revealed a broader conspiracy originating from across the border.

The police said eight of the 12 accused, including three juveniles, were currently in judicial custody. Three of the accused were killed in encounters with security forces.

One accused, Jazim Farooq Wani, who pulled the trigger, received weapon handling training on the directives of Pakistani handler Khalid Kamran, who is now absconding.

Only 13 of 42 Delhi High Court judges have declared their assets

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

Over the past five years, there has been a decline in the number of Delhi High Court judges who have disclosed their assets on the official website. At present, only 13 judges have publicly declared their assets, out of a total of 42, as opposed to 2018, when 29 out of 35 made such declarations.

The Delhi High Court has been a pioneer in judicial innovations, emphasising transparency in its operations.

The voluntary declarations were placed in the public domain following a Full Court resolution on August 8, 2009 to bring in transparency in judiciary.

The court also has an archived list of 58 judges – some of whom were elevated to the Supreme Court, transferred to other High Courts, or retired – who declared their assets on the website. Some judges had already disclosed their assets as early as February 2010.

Only seven declare

Apart from the Delhi HC, the Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madras and Punjab and Haryana and Kerala High Courts, out of the 25 in the country, have had sitting judges declare their assets on their respective websites.

The High Court of Punjab and Haryana had the highest number of judges declare their assets at 31 out of a total of 56, followed closely by the High Court of Kerala, with 30 judges out of 34 declaring their assets.

According to *The Hindu*'s survey, only 92 out of 778 High Court judges in the country, accounting for 11.8% of the total, have voluntarily declared their assets.

Details available on the websites also show that the judges do not update their assets periodically.

The official website of the Supreme Court shows only 55 former judges have declared their assets.

Need for legislation

In August 2023, a Parliamentary Standing Committee had released a report titled "Judicial processes and their reform", recommending that the government bring about appropriate legislation to make it mandatory for judges of the higher judiciary (the Supreme Court and the High Courts) to furnish their property returns on an annual basis to the appropriate authority.

The committee had noted that the salaries and other service conditions of Supreme Court and High Court judges were benchmarked in accordance with the salary scale of a Secretary to the Government of India.

The committee highlighted that other Constitutional authorities, including the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, were uploading their latest asset declarations on their websites under their Code of Ethics.

The Council of Ministers also declares assets in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Ministers issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"For the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts, there is a need to institutionalise the mechanism for regular filing of assets and uploading them in the public domain," the committee said.

Congress seeks halt to recruitment in U.P. for jobs in Israel

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The party also flayed the government for discriminating on the count of economic condition

The minority wing of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee on Saturday submitted petitions to District Magistrates (DMs) and Deputy Collectors across the State demanding withdrawal of the State government's proposed plan of inviting applications from skilled workers for job openings in Israel.

The party described the application process as the starting of a colonial practice, and added that invitation of jobs in Israel highlighted that India was going through a phase of massive unemployment and poverty as seen in the pre-Independence period, forcing labourers to look for job openings in war zones.

"We have submitted petition addressed to the U.P. Governor. The exercise of sending poor workers in Israel is shameful and equals to putting them in the jaws of death, as the war between Israel and Palestinian militants is continuing," Shahnawaz Alam, president, minority wing of the U.P. Congress, said.

The Congress also criticised the government for discriminating over economic condition. "When the government evacuated Indian nationals from Israel through Operation Ajay, why is it sending the poor for employment now. We demand immediate halt of the recruitment process," the plea says.

WHAT ARE LABOUR RULES FOR WORKERS ABROAD?
» FAQ PAGE

World Vision India loses FCRA registration

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of World Vision India (WVI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that focuses on children's issues. The U.S.-based World Vision is one of the world's largest Christian voluntary groups with a presence in over 100 countries. It has been operational in India for the past 70 years.

According to the Ministry's order, the Indian NGO is no longer eligible to receive foreign donations, including from its parent organisation, as its registration has been cancelled on account of "violation" of FCRA rules.

The WVI had been registered under the FCRA since 1986, to receive money used to conduct "social and educational" programmes. The NGO has signed agreements with several government departments in the past. In 2016, amid an uproar on social media, the Rajasthan government had to cancel a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the WVI on Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

Suspended in 2022

The NGO's registration was first suspended in November 2022, a year after it applied for the renewal of its FCRA registration, which must be done every five years.

The Ministry initially suspended the registration for 180 days for alleged non-compliance with the FCRA's provisions. The suspension was extended in May 2023.

According to the WVI's latest financial statement for the year 2022-23, submitted to the Ministry on October 14, "the society (WVI) has submitted its detailed responses to the MHA for all matters raised by them alleging non-compliance by the society with the provisions of FCRA relating to the periods from 2012-13 to 2020-21. The society has also provided the required supporting documents for all the matters raised in the letters from the MHA."

The financial statement added that WVI's operations had been significantly impacted due to the suspension, as it could not carry out any activities covered under FCRA after November 2022. "The society has closed all of its project offices working exclusively on FCRA projects and also terminated the contract with its employees working on FCRA projects in the month of May 2023," it said.

"Considering the suspension, the society has not been able to access the funds or assets, and has not been able to settle its liabilities to employees and vendors (including ₹39.72 crore relating to the period from November 2022 to March 31, 2023). The society has applied for access to 25% of the funds to settle the liabilities before the Ministry which is pending disposal as of date," it added.

In 2022, the WVI received around ₹170 crore in foreign donations from its partners in the U.S., Switzerland, and Germany, and others. It also received ₹8 lakh as a donation from the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Since 2011, the FCRA registrations of around 20,000 NGOs have been cancelled on various grounds of violation of provisions.

On January 10, the Ministry cancelled the FCRA registration of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a leading public policy think tank in New Delhi.

A Ram Setu sari from Kausalya's land

Odisha's Sambalpuri weavers have been creating saris based on mythological themes for years, but have not had commercial success. They hope their fortunes will change now

Soma Basu
NEW DELHI

Sometime last year, when Ayodhya was being decked out for the Ram Temple inauguration, almost 900 km away in Odisha's remote Katapali village in Bargah district, Ishwar Meher worked on a sari depicting Ram Setu (bridge). A 2015 National Award-winning master craftsperson, Mr. Ishwar Meher worked with handwoven cotton yarn for five months, using natural dyes from flowers, jaggery, gram flour, iron rust, and indigo.

The sari will now be showcased at the Jagannath Temple in Delhi on January 22, since Hindus believe Ram is one of the 10 avatars of Jagannath. "The temple is receiving lots of gifts from devotees across India at the moment and we do not want the importance of our exquisite sari to be lost in the mega event. It is our heirloom," said Dushyant Meher, whose father, Kailash Meher, was one of Mr. Ishwar Meher's five gurus. Mr. Dushyant Meher, who promotes the craft, has brought the sari for display to Delhi, and has sought permission to do so in the Rashtrapati Bhavan as well.

Dushyant Meher with the Ram Setu sari. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"Artists often rely on religion, because their work depicts scenes from mythology. Sambalpur is part of Odisha's Koshal region, believed to be the land of Kausalya, Ram's mother. Sambalpur weavers regard Ram as their nephew and he is an integral part of our spiritual consciousness," said Mr. Ishwar Meher.

With inputs from his family, he designed the piece in Sambalpuri *baandhakala ikat*, a technique in which the warp and the weft are tied and dyed before weaving.

The master craftsperson said the time and labour invested in the crafted piece determines the price of the sari. This one costs ₹1.1 lakh. Each sari takes a minimum of two months to weave. He hopes the exhibit will boost sales, so that the skill is kept alive. "The cost of raw materials has doubled over the last 10 years," he says.

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'January 22 will mark the break of new dawn in Ayodhya'

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

The long-awaited day has finally arrived, marking the end of centuries of anticipation, generations of struggle, and the fulfilment of the vow made by our ancestors. Tomorrow, the soul of *Sanatana* culture, Raghunandan Raghav Ram Lalla, is set to be enshrined in a grand and divine temple at his birthplace, Awadhpuri.

This historic and sacred occasion, after a gap of 500 years, has overwhelmed not just India but the entire world, with all eyes fixed on the *Mokshadayani* Ayodhya. Tomorrow, every road will lead to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. Every eye will be wet with tears of joy and satisfaction. And, everyone will be chanting "Ram-Ram".

Generations of believers and Ram devotees have left the world, waiting for this day. The significance of January 22 goes beyond the consecration of the *Bal-Roop Vigraha* of Ram Lalla; it signifies the re-establishment of public faith and trust. Ayodhya is now being restored to its former glory. The joint victory of justice and truth is erasing bitter memories and creating new stories, fostering harmony in society.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Mahayagya was not merely a test of *Sanatana* belief; it successfully awakened the collective consciousness of the nation, uniting India in the thread of unity. The unique unity displayed in the fight for the construction of a temple at the birthplace of Lord Ram is unparalleled. Saints, ascetics, intellectuals, politicians, and people from all walks of life rose above differences, uniting for a common cause. Socio-cultural organisations such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Vishva Hindu Parishad set the road map and united the masses. The resolution was finally fulfilled, and a new dawn is breaking in India.

In New Ayodhya, the preservation of ancient culture and civilisation is coupled with the integration of cutting-edge urban facilities

Regaining lost glory

Ayodhya, once called the "Amravati of Avani" and the "Vaikuntha of the earth", remained cursed for centuries. In a land where *Ram Rajya* was an ideal concept, Lord Ram had to prove his existence, and evidence was sought for his birthplace. But Shri Ram's life teaches us to behave decently and exercise self-restraint. The devotees of Ram demonstrated patience and perseverance, with their resolve growing stronger with each passing day. Today, as Ayodhya regains its lost glory, the entire nation rejoices. Heartfelt congratulations to honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi*ji* for guiding us to fulfil our resolve!

January 22 is an occasion of greatest joy for me, personally. As I reflect on the journey, memories flood my mind – moments of unwavering determination to liberate Ram Janmabhoomi. It was this resolve that led me into the virtuous company of revered Gurudev Mahant Avaidyanath Ji Maharaj. Tomorrow, as we will mark the auspicious occasion of consecrating the idol of Shri Ram Lalla, I am acutely aware that my grandfather, Brahmleen Mahant Shri Digvijaynath Ji Maharaj, and respected Gurudev Brahmleen Mahant Shri Avaidyanath Ji Maharaj, along with other revered saints, may not be physically present, but their souls will surely experience immense satisfaction. It is my good fortune to stand witness to the fulfilment of the resolution to which my respected gurus remained devoted throughout their lives.

Since the announcement of Shri Ram Lalla's consecration in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, the anticipation among every *Sanatana* believer has been palpable, building towards the eagerly awaited date of January 22. The sheer magnitude of collective joy and the celebratory atmosphere that now permeates the entire nation is unparalleled in recent centuries.

The convergence of diverse spiritual traditions – Shaiva, Vaishnav, Shakta, Ganapatya, Patya, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Dashnam Shankar, Ramananda, Ramanuj, Nimbarka, Madhva, Vishnu Nami, Ramsanehi, Ghisapanth, Garibdasi, Akali, Nirankari, Gaudiya, and Kabirpanthi – representing a myriad of schools, sects, worship methods, and traditions; alongside saints from over 150 traditions; as well as prominent figures from more than 50 communities, including forest and hill dwellers, tribal groups; and luminaries from various fields such as politics, science, industry, sports, arts, culture, and literature; all converging under one umbrella is truly unprecedented and rare.

Tomorrow, the honourable Prime Minister will eloquently convey the sentiments of 140 crore Indians in front of Shri Ram Lalla, transforming Ayodhyadham into a symbolic "Mini India". This momentous occasion is a source of immense pride, and on behalf of the 25 crore people of Uttar Pradesh, I extend heartfelt greetings to everyone in the sacred Ayodhyadham.

Meticulous preparations

Following the *Pran Pratistha* ceremony, Ayodhyadham stands poised to extend a warm welcome to devotees, tourists, researchers, and inquisitive minds from across the globe. With a dedicated focus on this objective, Ayodhyapuri is undergoing meticulous preparations in alignment with the visionary plans of the honourable Prime Minister. The city now boasts an international airport, an expanded railway station, and a well-connected network of four- and six-lane roads converging from all directions. Additionally, heliport service and a range of convenient hotels and guest houses have been established to cater to the diverse needs of visitors.

In New Ayodhya, the preservation of ancient culture and civilisation is coupled with the integration of cutting-edge urban facilities, meticulously designed to meet the demands of the future.

As part of this initiative, there is a rapid rejuvenation of religious, mythological, and historical sites within the radius of *Panchkosi*, 14 *Kosi*, and 84 *Kosi Parikrama* of Ayodhya. These concerted efforts are not only contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage but are also poised to boost tourism, foster cultural promotion, and generate new employment opportunities in the region.

The establishment of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple stands as a profound spiritual ceremony, marking a cultural renaissance in India – it is not merely a temple but the National Temple. The consecration of Shri Ram Lalla is a momentous occasion that swells the heart of entire nation with pride. Through the benevolence of Lord Ram, the sanctity of the traditional *parikrama* of Ayodhya is now secure; no disruptions shall mar its sacred path. In the lanes of Ayodhya, bullets will not echo, Saryu*ji* will not bear the stain of blood, and curfew will not unleash havoc. Instead, a jubilant celebration will reverberate, echoing the resonance of *Ramnaam Sankirtan*.

The consecration of Ram Lalla in Awadhpuri heralds the proclamation of the establishment of *Ram Rajya* in India. The *Bal-Roop Vigraha* of Shri Ram enshrined in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple serves as a guiding light, paving the way for every *Sanatana* believer to follow their religious principles.

Congratulations to 140 crore fellow citizens on this auspicious occasion! We take immense satisfaction in witnessing the fulfilment of our commitment to build the temple where our ancestors had solemnly sworn to establish. May the blessing of Lord Shri Ram envelop everyone in its warmth and grace.

Muslims in Ayodhya cite past violence, request strict security

The Hindu Bureau
AYODHYA

Abdul Waheed Quraishi has a ringside view of preparations for the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple taking place just a few hundred metres from his house, and his anxiety is growing as the countdown to January 22 gets closer.

"Administration assured us that no untoward incident will happen, but among lakhs of people, some elements definitely have different motives. Our family has seen 1990 and 1992 communal incidents in Ayodhya," he said.

Mr. Quraishi is among the hundreds of Muslims living in Ayodhya who are worried despite the Uttar Pradesh government's repeated assurance that it will maintain peace in the area on the date of the consecration ceremony and afterwards, amid a likely influx of devotees.

Petition to IGP

A local Muslim organisation submitted a petition to local authorities demanding strict security.

"In Ayodhya town, Hindus and Muslims have lived in peace, but in the past, due to mobs of outsiders at various events, the Muslim community has suffered loss of life, property and religious places. From January 22, after inauguration of the Ram Temple, it is estimated that a large crowd of outsiders are slated to visit, hence Muslims residing in Ayodhya town are fearful of life, property and religious places. In view of previous experiences, we request for strict vigil and security in localities such as Terhi Bazar, besides Teen wali Masjid, Gol Chauraha Sayyadbara, Begumpura, Durahi Kuan, Mughalpura, among others," reads a January 16 letter by the Anjuman Mohafiz Masjid- Wa- Maqabir, an organisation of local Muslims, addressed to the Inspector-General of Police, Ayodhya division.

"Some Muslims have sent their children and women family members to relatives' homes in Lucknow, Barabanki or other nearby districts. We tried to convince them as administration guaranteed security, but the fear of 1990 and 1992 communal incidents is difficult to forget for many people," said Mohammad Azam Qadri, president of the Sunni Central Waqf Board sub-committee in Ayodhya.

51 parking spots, drone surveillance for consecration

State anticipating daily footfall of 2.2 million devotees after Monday; plan afoot to recycle floral waste from temples in the town into incense sticks

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The local administration has designated 51 parking spots in Ayodhya, with a capacity of 22,825 vehicles, for the consecration ceremony on Monday. Special parking provisions have been made for VVIPs, VIPs, and other guests.

The designated locations include five spots on Ram Path, four on Dharma Path Marg, one on Bhakti Marg and five on Parikrama Marg.

Six parking spaces on Ram Path and Bhakti Path have been reserved for the vehicles of VVIP guests. Over 1,225 vehicles of VVIP guests can be parked there. Stringent security measures, including drone surveillance, have been implemented at these parking facilities.

The State is anticipating a daily footfall of 2.2 million devotees in Ayodhya following the consecration ceremony.

Circle of faith: Devotees performing parikrama around the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Saturday. ANI

The administration is planning to make incense sticks from the flowers offered by devotees to deities, hoping to generate employment opportunities for women working in self-help groups in the district.

Nine tonnes of floral waste from temples in Ayodhya is expected to be recycled daily after Monday. "In an innovative effort to maintain cleanliness within temple premises, the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation has embarked on a project to produce incense sticks through the processing of flowers offered in all Ayodhya Dham temples. Even after the conclusion of the *Pran Pratistha* programme, the Municipal Corporation will continue to create incense sticks from the flowers," the Uttar Pradesh government said on Saturday.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Phool, a company, and the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation for the collection and recycling.

Centre issues advisory for media ahead of ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the consecration ceremony, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Saturday asked the media to refrain from publishing or telecasting any content that may be false or manipulated, or may disturb communal harmony or public order.

In the advisory to newspapers, TV news channels, publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and social media platforms, the Ministry said: "It is observed that certain unverified, provocative and fake messages are being spread, especially on social media, which can disturb communal harmony and public order."

"The Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya will be celebrated on January 22, 2024, across India," noted the advisory. It cited provisions of the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, and Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, a reference to which has also been made in the Information Technology Rules, 2021, in this regard.

INBRIEF

Nadda to skip ceremony, to watch it from temple in Delhi

BJP chief J.P. Nadda will skip the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and instead watch the event from the Jhandewalan temple in New Delhi. In a post on X on Saturday, he thanked the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which is in charge of the temple's management, for inviting him to the January 22 event. He said he will visit it with his family after January 22 for "darshan". BJP leaders are likely to watch the ceremony from different parts of the country along with others, amid a suggestion from the leadership that they should visit the temple after January 22, when a large number of guests are expected. PTI

Chhattisgarh bans sale of meat across State on Jan. 22

Ahead of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple, the Chhattisgarh government has issued a ban on the sale of meat across the State on Monday. The order was issued on Saturday by the Urban Administration and Development Department, which referred to a provision under which slaughterhouses and meat selling shops located within the limits of urban bodies are to remain closed on special occasions. It directs all field officers of the district administration to implement the order in a strict manner. On Friday, the government declared a half-day public holiday on January 22.

Miscreants tore up posters, banners ahead of Rahul's rally in Assam: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Congress on Saturday said miscreants tore up posters and banners welcoming Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra before the convoy of vehicles on the march entered North Lakhimpur town in northeastern Assam.

The miscreants also chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' while vandalising yatra campaign materials on Friday night, the party alleged.

"When we were in power, we respected the BJP and their leaders when they came to Assam. But today, they are attacking us out of the fear that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will strike a chord with the people; they are fearing us," senior Congress spokesperson Joy Prakash Das said.

On the ground: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the party's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam on Friday. ANI

"A few of our Youth Congress leaders were attacked, cars vandalised, and posters and banners were torn off. We did not have such an environment earlier," he said.

Taking to X (formerly twitter), Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "We strongly condemn the shameful attack on the #BharatJodoNyayYatra vehicles and tearing of Congress party's banners and posters by BJP goons in Lakhimpur, Assam."

While the State BJP did not react to the allegations, Assam's Director-General of Police, Gyanendra Prasad Singh, denied Mr. Kharge's allegation.

"Dear sir, there has been no targeting of any vehicle of any political party, less so of the yatra. Assam police has made elaborate arrangements for security and L&O for the yatra throughout the State," he replied on X.

The yatra peacefully entered Arunachal Pradesh, he said.

VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
"e"-Procurement Request For Proposal (RFP) Notice
VMRDA, Visakhapatnam invites Bids on "e" Procurement Platform for the following works **(17/2023-24/CE/SE II /EE-1, VMRDA, Dt.19-01-2024, 2nd Call)** Re-development of Ac. 3.48 cts (erstwhile Vysakhi Jala Udyanavanam) located beside Police Barracks, One Town Area, Visakhapatnam as an Urban Entertainment Zone on PPP Basis.
Last date : 03-02-2024, 5:00 pm. For further details please log on to www.apeprocurement.gov.in
Sd/- METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONER, VMRDA

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
No. 4, Seshadri Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Phone : 080 - 2226 2263, E-mail : phq.prisons-kar@gov.in
No. : ADM.1/MODN/CR-35/2023-24 Date : 19-01-2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Portal)
The Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bangalore invited the following tenders for Supply, Commissioning and Maintenance of **Towers of the Harmonious Call Blocking System (T-HCBS)** for various **Central and District Prisons** as under.

Sl.No.	Tender No. And Date	Approx. Tender Value
01	PCSD/2023-24/SE0008, Date : 19-01-2024	Rs. 624 Lakhs

The information on Pre-Bid Meeting, Last Date and Time for Tender Submission and other details can be obtained at E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For more information, please contact the above Office.
Sd/- Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Karnataka State.
DIPR/Bangalore Urban/3138/Manipal/2023-24

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT - THANJAVUR (NIFTEM-T)
An Institute of National Importance
(Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFPT)
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu
Tel.: 04362-228155 Email: director@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.niftem-t.ac.in
No: NIFTEM-T/Admin/Deputation /Consultant/2023 Date: 21.01.2024
VACANCY NOTIFICATION
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management Thanjavur - **(NIFTEM-T)** is **inviting applications** from the eligible applicants for the following post.

Sl. No	Name of the Post	No.of Post
1	**Assistant Accounts Officer** (Deputation)/ Retired Government Officer(Consultant) on a contractual basis.	**1**

For application format, eligibility criteria, emoluments and terms & conditions, visit our website: **www.niftem-t.ac.in**.
Appendix I - for Deputation **Appendix II** - for Consultant.
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Om Bhakti Pure
Camphor Small

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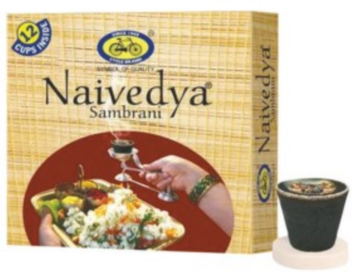

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900ml

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J BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Jaishankar holds talks with Bangladesh Foreign Minister

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday met the newly appointed Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mohammed Hasan Mahmud, in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, and hailed the bilateral relations that are "growing from strength to strength". Mr. Jaishankar met his Bangladeshi counterpart on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, which began on Friday. He congratulated Dr. Mahmud on his appointment as the Foreign Minister as the two leaders met for the first time after the new government took over earlier this month. PTI

Delhi Police arrest 'creator' of deepfake video of actor

The Delhi Police on Saturday arrested Eemani Naveen, a B.Tech. graduate, from Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, in connection with the deep fake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna. The police found that the original video was uploaded by a British Indian social media influencer on Instagram in October 2023 and later the accused created and circulated the deepfake video. "During interrogation, he told us that he was a big fan of Ms. Mandanna and used to run three social media pages on three actors. The other two pages had over a lakh followers but the page on Ms. Mandanna had 90,000, so to increase his followers he uploaded that deepfake video," Hemant Tiwari, DCP IFSO Special Cell, said.

BJP to launch mass connect programme from Feb. 4

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, the BJP will run a mass connect programme between February 4 and 11, with its 30 lakh members expected to reach out to seven lakh rural polling booths and all urban booths during the period. The BJP has named its rural outreach 'Gaon Chalo', with party president J P Nadda launching a workshop for its members on Saturday. He told them to spread the message about the numerous successes of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the last man, sources said. BJP members from its 37 organisational states attended the programme, with its leaders saying that similar training exercises will be held in its 988 organisational districts. PTI

Court frames charges against 13 accused in Delhi riots case

A Delhi court on Friday framed charges of attempt to murder, rioting and unlawful assembly against former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan, Khalid Saifi, and 11 others in a case pertaining to the northeast Delhi riots of 2020. The charges were framed by Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat. The court also discharged the accused for offences under Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act (criminal conspiracy, abetment), and Sections 34 (act done by several persons in furtherance of a common intention). The judge maintained that *prima facie*, there were grounds for presuming that the accused persons had committed offences. While Ms. Jahan is out on bail, Mr. Saifi is still in jail as his bail plea is pending with the Delhi High Court.

SUDOKU

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9				7	6	3	5	
	4				5	6		
	5						3	
		3	1				8	
	1	7	3	2				6
		6						3
2					4		1	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	8	5	7	3	2	9	6
7	3	2	9	6	1	5	8	4
9	6	5	2	8	4	3	1	7
8	5	7	1	9	2	6	4	3
4	1	9	6	3	7	8	5	2
6	2	3	4	5	8	1	7	9
2	9	6	8	4	5	7	3	1
5	7	1	3	2	9	4	6	8
3	8	4	7	1	6	9	2	5

Nitish shakes up national team of JD(U), drops ex-party chief

Bihar CM and party chief excludes former president Rajiv Ranjan Singh along with five serving MPs from the list; out of 22 office-bearers, four are Muslims; Rajya Sabha member Bashishtha Narayan Singh has been made national vice-president

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, the Janata Dal (United) has revamped its national team, with new office-bearers being announced for the first time since Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took over as the party's national president last month.

His predecessor, former party president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, is conspicuously missing from the list.

Mr. Kumar was unanimously elected JD(U) president at the party's national executive committee meeting in Delhi on December 29, after Mr. Singh stepped down.

Complete revamp: Former MP K.C. Tyagi has been elevated from special advisor to political advisor, and remains one of the party's two official spokespersons, along with former MLA Rajeeb Ranjan. PTI

Five MPs excluded

Party insiders said that the former president had requested Mr. Kumar to exclude him from the team.

Five serving MPs who served as party national general secretaries – Chandeshwar Chandravanshi, R.P. Mandal, Vijay Manjhi, Santosh Kushwaha, and Giridhari Yadav – have also been removed from the new list of office-bearers, according to a statement.

Former MP K.C. Tyagi has been elevated from special adviser to political adviser, and remains one of the party's two official spokespersons, along with former MLA Rajeeb Ranjan.

Rajya Sabha member Bashishtha Narayan Singh has been made national vice-president of the party, replacing Mangni Lal Mandal.

Rajya Sabha member Ramnath Thakur and State Cabinet Minister Sanjay Kumar Jha have been included in the list of general secretaries.

The JD(U) now has 11 general secretaries and six secretaries, apart from one treasurer, Alok Kumar Suman, the MP for Gopalganj.

There were 22 general secretaries in the outgoing team constituted by Mr. Lalan Singh.

His close confidants, Dananjay Singh and Harshvardhan Singh, who were general secretaries, have also been removed from their party posts.

Muslim representation

Of the 22 office-bearers in the team, four are Muslims. Former MPs Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Kahakeshan Parveen, and Afaque Ahmad have been appointed national general secretaries, while Mohammad Nisar was appointed a secretary.

Portfolios of three RJD Ministers reshuffled

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Amid growing speculation over a rift between the two ruling alliance parties of Bihar, the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday night changed the portfolios of three of his Cabinet colleagues from the RJD, including Education Minister Chandrashekhar, who has been generating controversy over his comments on the Ram Temple, and for sparring with the department's Secretary.

The notification released by the government said there had been a reshuffle of the portfolios of Ministers Alok Mehta, Chandrashekhar, and Lalit Yadav. All three Ministers are from the RJD. Mr. Mehta was Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms, Mr. Chandrashekhar was Education Minister, and Mr. Lalit Yadav was Minister for the Public Health Engineering Department.

According to the new notification issued by Chief Secretary Amir Subhani, Mr. Mehta has been given charge of the Education Department, Mr. Chandrashekhar is the new Sugarcane Industries Minister, while Mr. Lalit Yadav has been made Revenue and Land Reforms Minister with additional charge of the Public Health Engineering Department.

On Friday, RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his younger son and Deputy Chief Minister, Tejashwi Yadav, held a 45-minute closed-door meeting with Mr. Kumar at his official residenceamid rumours that Mr. Kumar may switch political sides once again.

However, the rift between Mr. Chandrashekhar and the Education Department's Secretary, K.K. Pathak, has been going on for over a month, and the Minister had stopped coming to his department. Official sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Pathak, who went on leave, agreed to join duty only if something significant would happen.

Mr. Chandrashekhar has been generating controversy for several months.

In party meet, Mamata hints at going solo for LS election

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Amid the discussion of seat sharing between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has directed the party leaders in Murshidabad to step up political activities in the district – considered a stronghold of the Congress. In a closed-door meeting of party leaders of Murshidabad district on Friday, Ms. Banerjee gave clear hints that the party is willing to go solo in the State.

"No single person is a factor in Murshidabad. If you all fight together... We will win all the three [Lok Sabha] seats in Murshidabad," the Trinamool chairperson reportedly told party leaders. Though she did not take the name of any leader, she hinted at State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Mamata Banerjee

The Trinamool had won two of the three seats (Murshidabad and Jangipur) in the district in 2019, whereas Mr. Chowdhury managed to retain Baharampur. In the 2021 Assembly election, the Trinamool won 20 of 22 Assembly seats in the district while the remaining two seats were won by the BJP.

The Chief Minister, however, did not completely rule out any alliance. "If something happens in future, we'll think about it," Ms. Banerjee said. She asked Trinamool leaders Firhad Hakim and Subrata Bakshi to oversee the party affairs in Murshidabad.

While Trinamool Congress is offering two seats to Congress – Baharampur and Malda Dakshin – the grand old party wants at least six seats. The State Congress president is not willing to agree to the proposal and has gone on record saying that "Trinamool needs Congress more than Congress needs Trinamool'. West Bengal elects 42 MPs to the Lok Sabha. Mr. Chowdhury has not made any comments on the Friday meeting.

'One nation, one election' a threat to democracy: AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Idea of saving poll-related costs does not hold as it will only save 0.1% of Budget, says party

The idea of "one nation, one election" threatens parliamentary democracy, the Constitution's Basic Structure, and the country's federal polity, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said on Saturday.

The party said it had told the high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind that the suggestion of holding concurrent elections to the Lok Sabha and all State legislatures posed a grave threat to the idea of free and fair polls.

Holding simultaneous polls is "inadequate in addressing hung legislatures, paving the way for anti-defection and the open buying-selling of MLAs/MPs", the party said in a statement. It stated that the argument that "one nation, one election" would save election-related costs did not hold as it would only save 0.1% of the Union Budget.

Executing such a proposal "encroaches upon the exercise of democratic power" by the people by forcing the legislature to remain in office for five years even if the government loses the confidence of the people, it said.

25th anniversary of midnight murder of Staines and his two sons tomorrow

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Residents of Manoharpur, a remote village in Keonjhar district of Odisha, will on Monday observe the 25th death anniversary of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons, whose murder had then shaken the conscience of humanity.

On the wintry night of January 22, 1999, Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, who participated in a jungle camp in Manoharpur, were charred to death. This annual jungle camp served as a social platform for Christians in the region to engage in discussions about their belief. At the time of the horrific incident, they were sleeping inside a van. Right-wing groups accused Staines of engaging in forced conversions.

Snuffed out: Graham and Gladys Staines seen with their children Philip, Esther and Timothy. FILE PHOTO

'Etched in memory'

"The period – 25 years – is typically considered a human generation. It means a generation has passed in Manoharpur that bears the ignominy of being the place of a ghastly murder. The incident is never going to get erased from our collective memory. However, January 22 is also a day of contemplation for us. We resolve to take forward the philosophy of humanity that Staines practised during his lifetime," said Johan Murmu, 40, who was a school student 25 years ago.

Manoharpur, located 200 km from Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar, houses 260-odd families with 45 families having embraced Christianity. The murder took place place about 10 minutes after midnight on January 23. Since it was night-time, Manoharpur observes the death anniversary on January 22 every year while the remembrance service is offered on January 23 in Baripada, the district headquarters town of Mayurbhanj district where the missionary used to serve leprosy patients.

People from 20 nearby villages come to Manoharpur Church to pray and remember Staines. Even guests from bigger cities pay a visit and this year, villagers are expecting a large gathering.

"As the saying goes, life is temporary and death is inevitable. However, the untimely demise should not have befallen Graham Staines and his minor sons, Philip and Timothy, the way it had. It struck them with unexpected cruelty," said Surendra Murmu, 30, who has grown up hearing accounts of the brutal murder.

Leprosy home

Established in Baripada in 1892 by the Evangelical Missionary Society of Mayurbhanj, the Mayurbhanj Leprosy Home (MLH) has played a crucial role in providing care. In 1965, at the age of 24, Staines joined MLH and settled in Baripada, where thousands from Odisha, West Bengal, and Jharkhand have received treatment. Recovered patients have found rehabilitation at Rajabasa, located approximately 11 km from the town. Post-recovery, many have successfully reintegrated into mainstream life, achieving independence through various livelihood programmes at Rajabasa. Following Staines' tragic murder, his wife Gladys Staines assumed leadership of the MLH and established the 15-bed Graham Staines Memorial Hospital in 2005.

IT Ministry issues draft road maps for critical tech sectors

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The road maps have been prepared by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has put out draft road maps for conducting indigenous research and development for cyberforensics, quantum computing technologies, mobile security, cryptography, and Internet of Things (IoT) security.

The road maps, prepared by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), aim to solve a series of issues in different time spans between now and 2047, the centenary of Indian independence.

The cybersecurity road map, for instance, seeks to develop "social media analytics" by 2026, while "Dark Web forensics" has until 2030 for completion. Detection of child exploitation and human trafficking is marked as ongoing efforts that will start in 2027 and continue beyond 2047. GPS and vehicle forensics will be completed by 2027 and 2029, respectively, while banking fraud and UPI payment forensics solutions have until 2029 and 2030, respectively.

On the quantum computing side, the road map says that research and development efforts to develop quantum computers will carry on till 2034. The mobile security road map aims, on the other hand, to engage in fostering "enterprise-grade" security systems, creating an "indigenous system for secure [operating systems] and mobile device hardware."

While these road maps envision activities that will stretch even beyond 2047, the cryptography road map – which seeks to achieve domestic digital encryption development goals – says goals for "asymmetric cryptography" and IoT devices should be done by 2028-33, including "quantum-resistant cryptography."

INBRIEF

Union Bank of India net profit surges 60% to ₹3,590 cr. in Q3

State-owned Union Bank of India on Saturday posted a 60% jump in net profit to ₹3,590 crore for the December quarter on the back of lower provisioning and better interest income. Total income rose to ₹29,137 crore from ₹24,154 crore a year earlier, as per a filing. Interest income rose to ₹25,363 crore (₹20,883 crore). Gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratio improved to 4.83% (7.93%). Similarly, the net NPA ratio declined to 1.08% from 2.14%. PTI

Sensex, Nifty end lower; FMCG, IT stocks top losers

Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared initial gains and settled lower on Saturday due to selling in FMCG and IT shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 259.58 points, or 0.36%, to settle at 71,423.65 as 24 of its components slid while six rose. The Nifty fell 50.60 points, or 0.23%, to 21,571.80. "Domestic markets exhibited subdued trend influenced by extended holidays, low volumes and weekly option expiration," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. PTI

Australia-based 'aussieBum' introduces menswear in India

Australian menswear brand 'aussieBum' has introduced its products in India and hopes to source from Indian manufacturers in the future. According to Sean Ashby, its founder, the brand has manufacturing facilities in China, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Vietnam and sells in more than 120 countries. "We are now creating ranges exclusively for India," he added. The firm plans to strengthen brand awareness in the Indian market before getting into manufacturing.

ICICI Bank Q3 net grows 24% as asset quality improves

Net Interest Income during the quarter increased by 13.4% YoY to ₹18,678 crore; however, net interest margin was lower at 4.43% compared with 4.65% a year earlier as deposit costs climbed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank reported third- quarter standalone net profit for the period ended December 31 grew by 23.6% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹10,272 crore on improved asset quality and increase in Net Interest Income (NII).

NII during the quarter increased by 13.4% YoY to ₹18,678 crore, ED Sandeep Batra said.

However, net interest margin was lower at 4.43% compared with 4.65% a year earlier on higher deposit costs. Despite this, the bank said it would continue to lend in a risk calibrated manner.

Better showing: The private lender's consolidated profit after tax rose 25.7% YoY to ₹11,053 crore. REUTERS

"From risk point of view India is well positioned and we will continue to look at opportunities from all segments to serve our customers," Mr. Batra said.

Lower provisions

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) stood at ₹1,050 crore (₹2,257 crore).

Total advances rose by 18.5% to ₹11,53,771 crore, while total period-end deposits climbed by 18.7% to ₹13,32,315 crore.

Gross NPA ratio declined to 2.3% (2.48%). The net NPA ratio stood at 0.44% (0.55%). Consolidated profit after tax rose 25.7% YoY to ₹11,053 crore.

Govt. suspends top SAIL, NMDC officials for 'corruption'

Shishir Sinha
NEW DELHI

Acting on complaints of corruption, the government has suspended two directors of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and one of National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC). Another 26 below-board-level officials, including four Executive Directors of SAIL have also been suspended.

In two separate exchange filings, the companies informed about the Steel Ministry's actions.

SAIL also issued a statement. "Ministry of Steel, Government of India, vide its letter dated 19th January 2024, has placed V.S. Chakravarthy, Director (Commercial), SAIL and A.K. Tulsiani, Director (Finance), SAIL, on suspension with immediate effect," the statement said. "The issue pertains to some investigations being carried out as per the directions of the Lokpal," the statement added.

Further, complying with Steel Ministry's instruction, SAIL has also placed 26 below board level officials of the company on suspension with immediate effect.

In the regulatory filing, SAIL also gave the names of some of the officials placed under suspension. These include four Executive Directors, S. K. Sharma (F&A), Vinod Gupta, ED (Commercial), Atul Mathur (Sales & ITD) and R. M. Suresh (Marketing Services). Though the company has not given any details of charges, it is believed that these officials favoured some customers with lower prices. It is also believed that officials undertook some overseas tours.

Commenting on the matter, SAIL Chairman Amarendu Prakash, said, "The company's business is being carried out as usual, and it is not going to impact its performance. We are dedicated to uphold the highest standards of corporate governance and ethical conduct."

NMDC's statement said, "It has been informed by the Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India vide Order dated 19.01.2024 that the Competent Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule 1 of Rule 20 of the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978 of NMDC Ltd. has placed V. Suresh, Director (Commercial), NMDC Ltd. under suspension with immediate effect."

Shares of both companies closed with gains on Saturday.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Kotak bank Q3 net rises 8% to ₹3,005 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported third-quarter standalone net profit grew 8% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹3,005 crore.

Results include ₹143 crore provision (post tax) on applicable Alternate Investment Fund pursuant to RBI's recent circular.

Net Interest Income (NII) rose to ₹6,554 crore from ₹5,653 crore, up 16%. Net Interest Margin (NIM) was 5.22% for the quarter, the bank said in a filing.

Advances increased 19% to ₹3,72,464 crore as at December 31. Unsecured retail advances (including Retail Micro Finance) as a percentage of net advances stood at 11.6% (9.3%).

Gross Non Performing Assets (GNPA) stood at 1.73% (1.9%) and Net Non Performing Assets (NNPA) at 0.34% (0.43%). Capital Adequacy Ratio was 21.2%.

IDFC First Bank Q3 net up 18% to ₹716 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

IDFC First Bank reported third-quarter net profit grew 18% Year-on-Year (YoY) to ₹716 crore aided by a 30% increase in Net Interest Income (NII) to ₹4,287 crore.

Net Interest Margin stood at 6.42% compared with 6.13% in the year-earlier period.

Provisions rose 45% YoY to ₹655 crore. Customer deposits increased by 42.8% to ₹1,76,481 crore. Gross NPA (GNPA) ratio improved to 2.04% from 2.96%. Net NPA (NNPA) improved to 0.68% from 1.03% a year earlier

Provision coverage ratio (including technical write-off) of the bank increased to 84.68% from 76.6%.

Capital Adequacy stood at 16.73%. V. Vaidyanathan, MD, said, "We are likely to meet most targets under Guidance 1.0."

Minimum assured returns still in works: PFRDA's Mohanty

K.R. Srivats
NEW DELHI

Deepak Mohanty

Pension regulator PFRDA has not dropped its earlier plan to introduce a Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS) under the National Pension System (NPS), its Chairman Deepak Mohanty said.

"It is very much on our radar. It is still in the works. We have to balance returns and cost of guarantee. I can't commit to a specific timeline on when it can be introduced. We are working on various formulations and hopefully we should be able to come out with some scheme", Mr. Mohanty said when asked if the regulator had dropped its planned launch of the scheme.

Currently, NPS does not guarantee any kind of returns or benefits as they are market-determined.

However, the government-backed Atal Pension Yojana guarantees a minimum monthly pension of ₹1,000-₹5,000 to subscribers based on the contributions. The initial thinking or basic construct was to provide assured return of annual 4-5% to NPS subscribers. The whole idea behind having MARS is to have a separate scheme that can offer a guaranteed minimum rate of return to NPS subscribers, especially those who are risk-averse.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'Cut import levy on gold, silver, platinum'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has proposed several recommendations to the government ahead of the upcoming Budget.

They include a safe harbour rule for rough diamond sales in Special Notified Zones and Diamond Imprest Licence and cut in import levy to 2.5% on cut and polished diamonds.

The GJEPC has asked the government for a reduction in import duty on gold/silver/platinum bars to 4% and introduction of a mechanism like "Rates & Taxes Refund" through EDI system similar to GST refund among others.

"These proposals will facilitate easy access to raw materials for the industry, especially for MSMEs," said Chairman Vipul Shah.

Textile sector seeks changes in customs duty on fabrics

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Annual revenue loss to the government said to be about ₹6,000 crore due to lower customs duty

The first-ever meeting of the newly constituted Textile Advisory Group for man-made fibre under the Ministry of Textiles has offered hope for changes in customs duty on knitted fabrics to reduce imports.

R.K. Vij, secretary general of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association, said he raised the issue of "illegal and undervalued import of Chinese knitted fabric", which is mixed with woven fabric.

Almost 1,000 tonnes of fabric is dumped in India daily due to the difference in customs duty for woven and knitted fabrics.

Currently, the duty on woven fabric is 20% of the value of imports, or ₹115-₹150 per kg, whichever is higher, while the duty on knitted fabric is a flat 20%.

The annual revenue loss to the government is approximately ₹6,000 crore due to lower customs duty, Mr. Vij claimed. Currently, knitted fabric is imported at $1.5/kg, which is even lower than the export price of yarn, when the finished product should cost about $4.5/kg, Mr. Vij reckoned, highlighting the extent of undervaluation.

"The Minister has assured to resolve this anomaly within two months," Mr. Vij said.

Meanwhile, the sector have demanded precautionary measures to ensure cotton prices do not shoot up later this cotton season.

Sport

Lashka poised for a hat-trick in the Deccan Bookmakers Welfare Association Darley Arabian Million

RACING

HYDERABAD: The 3-year-old filly Lashka, who has won two races in her last two starts, is poised for a hat-trick in the Deccan Bookmakers Welfare Association Darley Arabian Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Sunday's (Jan. 21) races.

1 YADADRI PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.15 p.m.: 1. Silver Act (3) Akash Rajput 60.5, 2. Fly Me (8) Mukesh Kumar 58, 3. Deccan Daisy (2) P. Sai Kumar 57, 4. Deccan Ranger (6) N.B. Kuldeep 55, 5. Rochelle (7) Santosh Raj 54.5, 6. Hoping Star (1) Md. Ismail 53.5, 7. Planet Super (4) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 53 and 8. Exeter (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.

1. DECCAN DAISY 2. SILVER ACT, 3. ROCHELLE

2 SURYAPET PLATE (2,000m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.45: 1. Hero Of The East (5) Kaviraj 60, 2. Aerial Combat (7) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Alpine Girl (8) Shivansh 58.5, 4. Trishul (4) Antony Raj 58.5, 5. Voice Of A Dream (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58.5, 6. Flashing Memories (1) R.S. Jodha 58, 7. Caraxes (3) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 8. Sweet Whisper (6) Nakhat Singh 53.

1. TRISHUL, 2. HERO OF THE EAST, 3. VOICE OF A DREAM

3 LINGAPUR CUP (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 3.15: 1. Royal Parade (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Glorious Power (7) Afroz Khan 54.5, 3. Desert Hero (4) Kaviraj 52, 4. River Deep (1) A.A. Vikrant 52, 5. Rolls Royce (3) R.S. Jodha 52, 6. Cannon Rose (6) P. Sai Kumar 50.5 and 7. Cherish The Lady (5) Santosh Raj 50.5.

1. CANNON ROSE, 2. ROYAL PARADE, 3. DESERT HERO

4 ADALA RAGHAVA REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 – 3.45: 1. N R I Doublepower (2) Imran Chisty 60, 2. Carlisle (3) Shivansh 59.5, 3. Ruby Red (8) P. Sai Kumar 57, 4. Terenga (1) Antony Raj 55, 5. Worcester (4) Afroz Khan 55, 6. Burgundy Black (7) Akash Rajput 53.5, 7. Brooklyn Beauty (5) Ajay Kumar 53 and 8. Encore (6) Md. Ekram Alam 51.

1. CARLISLE, 2. RUBY RED, 3. N R I DOUBLEPOWER

5 DECCAN BOOKMAKERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION DARLEY ARABIAN MILLION (Gr. 3) (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 4.15: 1. Born Brave (2) Imran Chisty 56, 2. Dictator (4) P. Sai Kumar 56, 3. In Proposito (1) Kaviraj 56 and 4. Lashka (3) Antony Raj S 54.5.

1. LASHKA

6 ROCK HEAVEN PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. China Town (11) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Exclusive Spark (3) P. Sai Kumar 60, 3. N R I Ultrapower (1) Shivansh 60, 4. Only My Way (8) Mukesh Kumar 60, 5. Toffee (2) Md. Ekram Alam 58.5, 6. D World (9) Deepak Singh 57, 7. Carnival Lady (10) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 8. Indian King (5) Md. Ismail 56.5, 9. Beauty Flame (7) Ajay Kumar 55, 10. Exponent (6) R.S. Jodha 54 and 11. Dream Jewel (4) Imran Chisty 51.5.

1. N R I ULTRAPOWER, 2. TOFFEE, 3. EXCLUSIVE SPARK

Day's Best: **LASHKA**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6.

Candy Girl wins Qutab Shahi Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer K. Satheesh's Candy Girl, ridden by Md. Ekram Alam, won the Qutab Shahi Million, the main event of Saturday's (Jan. 20) races.

The winner is owned by M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust.

1. RED SATIN PLATE: D BATTLE (Ajay Kumar) 1, Miracle Mary (Shivansh) 2, Assured Success (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 3 and Coming Home (Akash Rajput) 4. 2, 1-1/4 and Neck. 1m 12. 91s. ₹16 (w), 13, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 31, SHW: 12 and 18, FP: 64, Q: 42, Tanala: 249. Favourite: D Battle.

Owner: Mr. G.V. Reddy. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

2. INDIAN NAVY ROLLING CHALLENGE TROPHY (DIV. I): THE THUNDER (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Plethora (Nakhat Singh) 2, Wind Sprite (Afroz Khan) 3 and Calista Girl (Kaviraj) 4. Not run: Santa Barbara. 1-1/4, Shd and 3-1/4. 1m 5. 65s. ₹21 (w), 11, 40 and 21 (p). SHP: 167, THP: 75, SHW: 10 and 69, FP: 494, Q: 352, Tanala: 8,196. Favourite: The Thunder.

Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: B. Mukesh Kumar.

3. INDIAN NAVY ROLLING CHALLENGE TROPHY (DIV. II): ALEXINA (Santosh Raj N.R.) 1, Classical Music (Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 2, Red Snaper (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Silk (Surya Prakash) 4. Not run: Capital Gain. ₹54 (w), 12, 13 and 26 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 70, SHW: 12 and 31, FP: 325, Q: 135, Tanala: 1,554. Favourite: Life's Living.

Owners: Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

4. GAJASIMHA RAO MEMORIAL CUP: STRAUSS (Akash Rajput) 1, Royal Grace (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Sun Dancer (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Bangor On Dee (Afroz Khan) 4. ₹17 (w), 10, 14 and 21 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 60, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 69, Q: 47, Tanala: 407. Favourite: Strauss.

Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

5. QUTAB SHAHI MILLION: CANDY GIRL (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Huntingdon (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Siddharth (P. Trevor) 3 and Priceless Gold (Antony Raj S) 4. 2, Shd and Shd. 1m 38. 61s. ₹46 (w), 31 and 33 (p). SHP: 60, THP: 80, SHW: 25 and 78, FP: 495, Q: 144, Tanala: 833. Favourite: Siddharth.

Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. COMMON LAND PLATE: DIVINE DESTINY (Surya Prakash) 1, Lady Danger (Akash Rajput) 2, Barbet (P. Trevor) 3 and Path Of Peace (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 2-1/4. 2m 7. 26s. ₹47 (w), 14, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 42, SHW: 27 and 11, FP: 384, Q: 132, Tanala: 982. Favourite: Barbet.

Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss. Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai, rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹17,055 (12 tkts.), 30%: 1,328 (66 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 11,291 (5 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 492 (50 tkts.), (ii) 1,220 (42 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.

Badminton: India Open, Jio Cinema App, 9 a.m. onwards

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m. onwards

U-19 CWC: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Australian Open: Afternoon Session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 1.30 p.m.

Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)

LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Monday)

Anant and Raiza bag Olympic quota places

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian skeet shooters rose to the challenge as Anant Jeet Singh Naruka and Raiza Dhillon bagged the men's and women's Olympic quota with silver medals in the Asian shotgun championship in Kuwait on Saturday.

The Indian team took its tally to 19 Olympic quota places, as against a maximum possible 24.

If it was a classy performance by the Asian Games silver medallist Anant Jeet to win the silver, one point behind Meng Yuan Lee of Chinese Taipei, who had already won the Olympic quota, the Indian women breathed fire as all three of them Raiza, Maheshwari Chauhan and Ganemat Sekhon made the final, eventually placing 2 to 4 in that order.

Anant Jeet had qualified in the second place with 121, one point behind Ma Chenglong of China, who eventually finished fourth and missed the Olympic quota.

The results:

Skeet: **Men**: 1. Meng Yuan Lee (Tpe) 57 (121); 2. Anant Jeet Singh Naruka 56 (121); 3. Mohammad Aldaihani (Kuw) 47 (117); 18. Munek Battula 113; 21. Gurjoat Khangura 113.

Team: 1. China 353.

Women: 1. Gao Jinmei (Chn) 56 (119); 2. Raiza Dhillon 52 (115); 3. Maheshwari Chauhan 43 (115); 4. Ganemat Sekhon 30 (117). RPO: Karttiki Singh Shaktawat 105.

Team: 1. India 347; 2. China 342; 3. Kazakhstan 333.

INDIA CHALLENGE AHEAD

Pietersen emphasises importance of defensive technique against spin

REUTERS

England's Kevin Pietersen said his relentless defensive drills at the nets was the mantra to his success during the 2012-13 tour of India. "Getting runs is just going to be a fluke without a defence... it's about learning not to commit yourself on to the front foot; about waiting to pick the length of the ball," Pietersen told Mike Atherton.

BAZBALL EFFECT?

I wouldn't write off England's chances, says Hussain

FILE PHOTO: S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has warned against writing off England's chances in the upcoming five-match Test series in India. "India is the favourite, but every single challenge Bazball has faced it has stuck to its guns and Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum's record is seriously good, I wouldn't write them off," Hussain said.

IN GOOD NICK

Bharat notches up a century; India-A draw with England Lions

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

K.S. Bharat scored an unbeaten 116 as India-A made hot pursuit of an improbable winning target of 490 before the opening 'Test' against England Lions ended in a draw, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. **The scores:** England Lions 553 & 163/6 decl. drew with India 227 & 425/6 in 125 overs (K.S. Bharat 116 n.o., Manav Suthar 89 n.o.).

IMPACTFUL

Ashu scores 17 as Dabang drubs U Mumba

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dabang Delhi KC returned to winning ways as it earned a 39-33 win over U Mumba in the Pro Kabaddi League match at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday. Ashu Malik played a captain's role as he bagged an impressive 17 raid points. Telugu Titans beat U.P. Yoddhas 49-32 in the other match of the day.

Swiatek stunned by young Noskova; Alcaraz breaks new ground

The women's World No. 1's bid for a maiden title at Melbourne Park brought to an abrupt halt as the 19-year-old Czech became the first teenager to down the top seed since Mauresmo beat Davenport in 1999

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Reuters
MELBOURNE

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek crashed out of the Australian Open at the hands of Czech teenager Linda Noskova in the third round on Saturday to further deplete an already weakened women's draw heading into the second week at Melbourne Park.

While only three of the top 10 women's seeds remain, the main contenders for the men's title have all breezed into the fourth round with Carlos Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev joining the charge on day seven.

Swiatek's bid for a maiden title at Melbourne Park was brought to an abrupt halt when 19-year-old Noskova became the first teenager to down the top seed since Amelie Mauresmo beat Lindsay Davenport in 1999.

Noskova held her nerve after Swiatek had won the opening set, and on the big points in the third set, and only let emotions get the better of her after serving out for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Alcaraz earlier reached the fourth round for the first time when Chinese teenager Shang Junchen pulled up injured while trailing in their uneven contest 6-1, 6-1, 1-0.

Nerves of steel: Noskova let emotions get the better of her only after serving out for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory. AFP

Medvedev, who had needed five sets to beat Emil Ruusuvuori in a second-round match that concluded in the early hours of Friday morning, made short work of Felix Auger-Aliassime with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Sixth seeded German Zverev also went through in straight sets after a 6-2, 7-6(4), 6-2 win over American Alex Michelsen in the final match of the day.

While Shang fell short in his bid to become the first Chinese man to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam since 1938, the country will have a presence in the second week after Zheng Qinwen beat compatriot Wang Yafan 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(8).

French wildcard Arthur Cazaux joined Dodin and Adrian Mannarino in the last 16 with a breezy 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 win over Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor to extend his Melbourne Park debut.

He will next meet the similarly big-serving ninth seed Hubert Hurkacz, who kept Poland's flag flying with a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-3 win over Ugo Humbert.

Britain will also have a representative in the second week after Cameron Norrie ousted 11th seed Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-7(7), 6-4, 6-3 to reach the fourth round for the first time.

Nuno Borges became only the second Portuguese player to reach the second week of a major when he battled back to beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(2) and set up a meeting with Medvedev.

Ukrainian Dayana Yastremska will return to the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time since Wimbledon 2019 after her 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 win over Emma Navarro.

She next faces Victoria Azarenka, who battled back from 4-1 down in the second set to beat Jelena Ostapenko 6-1, 7-5 in a battle of former Grand Slam champions.

India's N. Sriram Balaji and his Romanian partner Victor Vlad Cornea lost their second round men's doubles match 6-3, 6-3 to Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Mate Pavic of Croatia.

THIRD ROUND RESULTS

Men: Cazaux (Fra) bt 28-Griekspoor (Ned) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1; 6-Zverev (Ger) bt Michelsen (USA) 6-2, 7-6(4), 6-2; Borges (Por) bt 13-Dimitrov (Bul) 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(6); 3-Medvedev (Rus) bt 27-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 19-Norrie (GBr) bt 11-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-7(7), 6-4, 6-3; 9-Hurkacz (Pol) bt 21-Humbert (Fra) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-3; Kecmanovic (Srb) bt 14-Paul (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 7-6(7), 6-0; 2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Shang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1, 1-0 ret.
Women: Noskova (Cze) bt 1-Swiatek (Pol) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 19-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Golubic (Sui) 6-2, 6-3; 18-Azarenka (Blr) bt 11-Ostapenko (Lat) 6-1, 7-5; Yastremska (Ukr) bt 27-Navarro (USA) 6-2, 2-6, 6-1; 26-Paolini (Ita) bt Blinkova (Rus) 7-6(1), 6-4; Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Stephens (USA) 6-7(8), 6-1, 6-4; 12-Zheng (Chn) bt Wang (Chn) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(8); Dodin (Fra) bt Burel (Fra) 6-2, 6-4.

Fallen seeds
Men: 11-Ruud, 13-Dimitrov, 14-Paul, 21-Humbert, 27-Auger-Aliassime, 28-Griekspoor
Women: 1-Swiatek, 11-Ostapenko, 27-Navarro

Olympic dreams over, questions remain over Schopman's future

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

Minutes after the Indian women's team's Olympic qualification hopes ended, the first thought for most people was about the future of coach Janneke Schopman. It might seem premature but that's how it has been in Indian hockey – Graham Reid sent in his resignation the day the 2023 men's World Cup finished.

While Schopman herself was non-committal – "I don't know" was all she said when asked about her future – Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey took a more balanced view.

"I can't say anything right now, it's too fresh. But we will look at the future plans and talk to everyone concerned – the federation, coaches, players and the selectors – and then decide. But the development plan will continue on this path. For us, women are as much a priority as the men. There is an important tournament every two years, so we need to keep that in mind," Tirkey said.

"We have no major concerns about the coach. If you see the way the team is playing, we have done well in recent times.

"In the last few tournaments, we won bronze at the Asian Games and then won the Asian Champions Trophy. We beat Japan in both the tournaments easily.

"Here also, I won't say we were very bad, especially if you consider the absence of three key players in every department – Vandana Katariya (forward), Sushila Chanu (midfield) and Deep Grace Ekka (defence). I would say we were outstanding against Germany," he explained.

"If we could not create chances or get penalty corners or match the opposition then yes, maybe you can question. But if players are unable to convert on field, you cannot blame the coach.

"We fought back against Germany and Savita gave us a 2-0 lead in the shootouts also but we could not retain it. Today we got nine PCs but couldn't convert. If you don't score you can't win. I would say we lost our chances but to blame the coach would be unfair," he declared.

India plays its next competitive game in 15 days and while the Pro League may not have the same importance now without an Olympics to look forward to, any decision will need to take into account India's future schedule over the next two years leading up to the 2026 World Cup.

There have been reports of certain sections of Hockey India being unhappy with Schopman and wanting to sack her soon after the Asian Games before Tirkey took a stand against it, citing the Qualifiers. This time around, it may be a tougher task.

Under a cloud: Schopman was non-committal on her future following the setback. PTI

Gunners shoot down Crystal Palace

In unison: Arsenal had a complete team performance. REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal breathed new life into its Premier League title challenge as a 5-0 win over Crystal Palace got the Gunners back to winning ways. Centre-back Gabriel did most of the damage before half-time as he headed in the opener then forced Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson into an own goal. Leandro Trossard made it 3-0 on the hour mark before substitute Gabriel Martinelli struck twice in stoppage time.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 5 (Gabriel 11, Henderson 37-og, Trossard 59, Martinelli 90+4, 90+5) bt Crystal Palace 0. **LaLiga:** Rayo Vallecano 0 lost to Las Palmas 2 (Moleiro 35, Munoz 83). **Bundesliga:** Darmstadt 2 (Justvan 61, Klarer 90+5) drew with Frankfurt 2 (Nkounkou 33, Knauff 51); Freiburg 3 (Hoeler 37, Grifo 55, Sallai 85) bt Hoffenheim 2 (Weghorst 57, Beier 77); Koeln 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 4 (Malen 12, 61, Fuellkrug 58-pen, Moukoko 90+2); Heidenheim 1 (Jenz 45+ 2- og) drew with Wolfsburg 1 (Cerny 7).
On Friday: LaLiga: Alaves 1 (Rioja 51-pen) bt Cadiz 0.

Chirag-Satwik duo provides warmth after Prannoy's meltdown

INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Braving severe cold conditions prevailing in the Capital, those who made it to the India Open badminton on Saturday night left the Jadhav Stadium after 11 p.m. following a heart-warming performance from the new poster-boys of Indian badminton – Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

The World No. 2 pair produced a fighting performance against fourth-seeded Malaysians Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik to whom it lost eight successive times before the next two. The 21-18, 21-14 victory made it a hat-trick of triumph. This will be a second final in eight days for the Indians after the summit clash of the Malaysia Open.

After H.S. Prannoy's disappointing 21-15, 21-5 defeat to World No. 2 Shi Yuqi, Chirag-Satwik's victory served as a soothing balm for the crowd. They bounced back from 10-13 in the second game to win the last six points, soon after a tap from Chirag struck Aaron Chia on the eye.

Earlier, Prannoy's meltdown in the second game of the 42-minute contest cleared Shi Yuqi's passage to the final against Hong Kong's unseeded Lee Cheuk Yiu, the conqueror of second seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka.

Shi Yuqi, a finalist of the Malaysia Open last Sunday, displayed a better range of strokes. His defence stood firm when it mattered as he looked to finish the point with smashes, drops and flicks.

The first game was fought on an even keel after Prannoy was first off the blocks. Some deft touches, placements and down-the-line forehand smashes helped Prannoy stay on the heels of the Chinese who led 11-10 at the mid-game interval.

On resumption, Prannoy kept pace till 14-14 before Shi Yuqi reeled off seven of the last eight points to close the game in 23 minutes.

The second game proved a no-contest. Shi Yuqi carried the momentum gained late in the opening game to break free from 6-3. He produced his range of shots, beat a tired Prannoy for pace and left the Indian exasperated.

One step away: Satwik and Chirag stormed into the final after a sterling display against Chia and Wooi Yik. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The results (semifinals):
Men's singles: 6-Shi Yuqi (Chn) bt 8-H.S. Prannoy 21-15, 21-5; Lee Cheuk Yiu (Hkg) bt 2-Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) 21-13, 15-21, 21-19.
Men's doubles: 3-Kang Min Hyuk & Seo Seung Jae (Kor) bt 7-Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi (Jpn) 21-19, 21-14; 2-Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bt 4-Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Mal) 21-18, 21-14.
Women's singles: 4-Tai Tzu Ying (Tpe) bt Yeo Jia Min (Sin) 21-13, 21-18; 2-Chen Yu Fie (Chn) bt Wang Zhi Yi (Chn) 21-13, 21-18.

India begins with a win against Bangladesh

Roaring performance: India defended 251 with ease. X@BCCI

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BLOEMFONTEIN

Left-arm spinners Saumy Kumar Pandey and Musheer Khan's bowling performance helped India outclass Bangladesh by 84 runs in their opening game of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Saturday.

The two Indian spinners choked the run-flow, shooting out the opposition for 167 in 45.5 overs.

Skipper Uday Saharan (64, 94b) and opener Adarsh Singh (76, 96b) shone after Bangladesh invited the defending champion to take first strike.

Saumy (four for 24) bowled the lethal arm-ball while Musheer (two for 35) tossed it up and got drift. Sachin Dhas' cameo for India took the score past 250.

The scores:
India 251/7 in 50 overs (Adarsh Singh 76, Uday Saharan 64, Maruf Mridha 5/43) bt Bangladesh 167 in 45.5 overs (Mohammad Shihab 54, Saumy Pandey 4/24).

Toss: Bangladesh. **PoM:** Adarsh.

India beat Bangladesh by 84 runs.

India's next match: Jan. 25: vs Ireland.

Padikkal, Mayank's tons take Karnataka close to Goa's total

The home team reaches 253 for the loss of four wickets at the end of day two after bowling out Misal's side for 321; the visitor claims both centurions' wickets just before stumps

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MYSURU

If not for some late-afternoon tardiness, Karnataka would have finished firmly on top at the end of day two of its Ranji Trophy match against Goa at theSDNR Wadiyar Stadium here on Saturday.

Propelled by fine centuries from Mayank Agarwal and Devdutt Padikkal, Karnataka was coasting along at 238 for one, just 83 runs adrift of Goa's first-innings total.

But a rush of blood from Padikkal cost him (103, 143b, 13x4), as he charged at off-spinner Mohit Redkar, only to find himself in no man's land and edge a catch to slip. Mayank sliced left-arm spinner Darshan Misal straight to point (114, 179b, 10x4).

At stumps, Karnataka was 253 for four, 68 runs in the red. With Manish Pandey still injured, the host will need Nikin Jose (3 batting), Sharath Srinivas (0 batting) and all-rounder Shubhang Hegde to do the heavy lifting.

In hindsight, the 93 runs Karnataka allowed Goa to add to the overnight 228 for eight seemed one too many. Tailender Heramb Parab brandished his willow like a stick weapon (53, 81b, 8x4, 1x6) while Arjun Tendulkar displayed a good dose of elegance (52, 112b, 3x4, 1x6).

Dashing duo: Mayank and Padikkal have been in smashing form for Karnataka. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Both however paled in comparison to Mayank and Padikkal during the Karnataka batters' 211-run second-wicket stand. After opener D. Nischal fell early, leg-before to a ball from Misal that kept low, the duo was full of elegant drives, deft nudges and delicate steers. Mayank reached his fifty with a drive past mid-off, while Padikkal got there with a square-driven boundary.

The Goa bowlers tried crippling the home batters by bowling short and a largely leg-stump line. Padikkal, though, swayed to execute an upper-cut, pulled pacer Felix Alemao to move into the 90s and got to his fourth First Class hundred with a slapped four off Tendulkar and a hard-run double. Mayank got his 17th with a fierce flat-batted boundary past Redkar.

Goa seemed set to suffer further, and be buried under a mountain of runs. But a late turnround means it will return on day three still alive and kicking.

The scores:
Goa - 1st innings: Ishaan Gadekar c Sharath b Vyshak 6, Suyash Prabhudessai b Rohit 24, K.V. Siddharth c Jose b Koushik 2, Snehal Kauthankar c Jose b Venkatesh 83, Darshan Misal st. Sharath b Rohit 39, Deepraj Gaonkar c sub b Rohit 0, Samar Dubhashi b Vyshak 19, Arjun Tendulkar c Sharath b Venkatesh 52, Mohit Redkar b Vyshak 16, Heramb Parab b Venkatesh 53, Felix Alemao (not out) 3.
Extras (b-4, lb-12, w-2, nb-6): 24; Total (in 110.1 overs): 321.
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-12, 3-45, 4-127, 5-131, 6-181, 7-196, 8-221, 9-314.
Karnataka bowling: Koushik 26-8-49-1, Vyshak 25-5-76-3, Venkatesh 19.1-3-41-3, Rohit 29-5-90-3, Shubhang 8.1-0-28-0, Mayank 2-0-13-0, Jose 0.5-0-8-0.
Karnataka - 1st innings: D. Nischal lbw b Misal 16, Mayank Agarwal c Gadekar b Misal 114, Devdutt Padikkal c Misal b Redkar 103, Nikin Jose (batting) 3, Rohit Kumar c Dubhashi b Redkar 2, Sharath Srinivas (batting) 0.
Extras (b-5, lb-6, w-1, nb-3): 15; Total (for four wkts. in 64 overs): 253.
Fall of wickets: Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-238, 3-246, 4-253.
Goa bowling: Tendulkar 8-1-36-0, Parab 5-0-28-0, Misal 24-1-68-2, Redkar 18-2-65-2, Alemao 9-1-45-0.

Gukesh wins again, shares third spot with Pragg, two others

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh produced another gritty performance to nail local hope Jorden van Foreest in 45 moves for his second straight victory that placed him in the joint third spot after six rounds of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, near Amsterdam, on Friday.

After Gukesh encashed on the two-pawn advantage to reach 3.5 points, he found himself in the company of compatriot R. Praggnanandhaa, World champion Ding Liren (China) and Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan).

Anish Giri (4.5) stayed ahead of the pack, followed by a victorious Alireza Firouzja (4).

In the Challengers section, D. Harika scored over Belgium's Stefan Beukema to reach 2.5 points. However, Leon Mendonca (3) and last-placed Divya Deshmukh (1.5) lost.

The results (sixth round):
Masters: Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2) lost to D. Gukesh (3.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (3) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 2.5) drew with Vidit Gujrathi (3); Anish Giri (Ned, 4) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 1.5); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 4) bt Wei Yi (Chn, 3); Ding Liren (Chn, 3) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3.5) bt Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 1.5).
Challengers: Stefan Beukema (Bel, 2) lost to D. Harika (2.5); Salem Saleh (UAE, 4) bt Divya Deshmukh (1.5); Liam Vrolijk (Ned, 3) bt Leon Mendonca (3); Anton Korobov (Ukr, 4) drew with Erwin L'Ami (4.5); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 3) lost to Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 4); Jaime Santos Latasa (Esp, 3) drew with Daniel Dardha (Bel, 3); Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 2.5) lost to Eline Roebers (Ned, 2).

Rithvik and Poonacha lose Challenger final

Sports Bureau

Top seeds Luke Johnson of Britain and Skander Mansouri of Tunisia beat Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha 7-5, 6-4 in the doubles final of the $82,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Saturday.

The results:
$82,000 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Final: Luke Johnson (GBR) & Skander Mansouri (Tun) bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 7-5, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Zaka Ashraf steps down as PCB's CMC chairman

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Cricket Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf, has stepped down from the post just two weeks before his extension was to expire. Zaka had been heading the CMC since July and the government gave it an extension in November until February 4, but on Friday, Zaka submitted his resignation.

Tata Group awarded IPL title rights for record $300m

Corporate behemoth Tata Group has again been awarded title sponsorship rights of the Indian Premier League for five years, for a record sum of $300 million, the national cricket board said on Saturday. Tata already holds the title sponsorship for the IPL and the Women's Premier League, which staged its first tournament last year. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah said the "unprecedented financial commitment reflects the immense scale and global impact of the IPL on the international sports stage".

Cristiano Ronaldo backs the Saudi Pro League

Legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday backed the Saudi Pro League and called it more competitive than Ligue 1. "The Saudi league is not worse than Ligue 1. The Saudi Pro League is more competitive than Ligue 1.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 3, DAY 2

Elite: Group-A: At Jodhpur: Maharashtra 189 & 66/1 in 27 overs vs Rajasthan 270 in 81.1 overs (Karan Lamba 53, Deepak Hooda 63, Shubham Sharma 53, Ashay Palkar 5/46, Hitesh Walunj 4/80).
At Ahmedabad: Haryana 508/3 decl. in 109 overs (Himanshu Rana 250 n.o., Rohit Sharma 59 n.o.) bt Manipur 77 & 93 in 29.2 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 50). **Points: Haryana 7(14), Manipur 0(0).**
At Delhi: Jharkhand 316 in 110.3 overs (Virat Singh 108, Kumar Kushagra 132, Varun Choudhary 4/56) vs Services 128/2 in 42 overs (Ravi Chauhan 59 batting).
At Nagpur: Saurashtra 206 & 205/3 in 69 overs (Kevin Jivrajani 57, Vishvaraj Jadeja 79, Cheteshwar Pujara 49 batting) vs Vidarbha 78 in 33.5 overs (Chirag Jani 4/14).
Group-B: At Dibrugarh: Andhra 188 & 147/1 in 42 overs (Hanuma Vihari 48 batting, Ricky Bhui 52 batting) vs Assam 160 in 60.1 overs.
At Kolkata: Bengal 381/8 in 128 overs (Anustup Majumdar 71, Abishek Porel 114) vs Chhattisgarh.
At Thumba: Mumbai 251 & 105/0 in 26 overs (Jay Bista 59 batting, Bhupen Lalwani 41 batting) vs Kerala 244 in 55.2 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 56, Sachin Baby 65, Mohit Avasthi 7/57).
At Meerut: Bihar 126/3 in 48 overs (Sharman Nigrodh 72 batting) vs Uttar Pradesh.
Group-C: At Mysuru: Goa 321 in 110.1 overs (Arjun Tendulkar 52, Heramb Parab 53) vs Karnataka 253/4 in 64 overs (Mayank Agarwal 114, Devdutt Padikkal 103).
At Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 489 in 144 overs (N. Jagadeesan 245 n.o., Sai Kishore 59) vs Railways 126/2 in 35 overs.
At Mohali: Punjab 78/7 in 30 overs vs Tripura.
At Chandigarh: Gujarat 86/2 in 26 overs vs Chandigarh.
Group-D: At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 171 & 157/5 in 42 overs (Sumit Kushwah 47, Shubham Sharma 73) vs Delhi 205 in 67.5 overs (Yash Dhull 47, Ayush Badoni 41).
At Dharamsala: Baroda 482 in 129.3 overs (Shashwat Rawat 207, Shivalik Sharma 188, Vaibhav Arora 5/68) vs Himachal Pradesh 143/8 in 36 overs (Abhimanyusingh Rajput 4/39).
At Dehradun: Pondicherry 204 & 70/3 in 20 overs (Akash Kargave 40) vs Uttarakhand 123 in 47.5 overs (Aditya Tare 40, Gaurav Yadav 6/40, Sagar Udeshi 4/53).
At Cuttack: Odisha 130 & 126/7 in 43 overs (Sandeep Pattnaik 47 batting) vs Jammu & Kashmir 180 in 45.4 overs.

Plate: At Hyderabad: Sikkim 79 & 186 in 48.3 overs lost to Hyderabad 463/4 decl. in 78.1 overs (Tilak Varma 103 n.o., Chandan Sahani 54). **Hyderabad 7(21), Sikkim 0(13).**
At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 265 & 45/1 in 18 overs vs Mizoram 323 in 59 overs (Agni Chopra 114, Vikash Kumar 58, K.C. Cariappa 74, Nabam Tempol 5/90).

South Korea escapes with a draw against Jordan

AFC ASIAN CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

South Korea snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat with a 2-2 draw with Jordan in their Group E match of the AFC Asian Cup 2023 here on Saturday.

Just when it looked like another upset in this edition of the tournament, after Japan's 1-2 loss to Iraq, Yazan Al-Arab's own goal injected new life into Korean fans and players, making it all square in the first minute of second-half injury time.

South Korea and Jordan remain level on points after the draw, with the latter leading the group on goal difference. Jordan will finish its group-stage games against Bahrain while Korea faces Malaysia, with both games scheduled on January 25.

The result: Jordan 2 (Park 37 (og), Al-Naimat (45+4)) drew with South Korea 2 (Son 9 (pen), Al-Arab (90+1).

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*Q3'2023-24 Vs Q3'2022-23

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the period ended 31.12.2023 (₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended December 31, 2023 (Audited)	Quarter ended September 30, 2023 (Audited)	Quarter ended December 31, 2022 (Audited)	Nine Months ended December 31, 2023 (Audited)	Nine Months ended December 31, 2022 (Audited)	Previous Year ended March 31, 2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,253.20	1,176.96	868.98	3,573.65	2,446.73	3,483.04
2.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	386.14	379.90	234.70	1,205.57	850.87	1,139.25
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	386.14	379.90	234.70	1,205.57	850.87	1,139.25
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	335.54	284.73	200.75	914.85	611.01	864.63
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	424.69	265.41	308.23	843.44	535.66	825.89
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹ 10/- each)	2,687.76	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,687.76	2,284.60	2,284.60
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	5,446.80	4,296.01	3,306.40	5,446.80	3,306.40	3,650.57
8.	Securities Premium Account (net)	863.63	-	-	863.63	-	-
9.	Net worth	8,134.56	6,580.61	5,591.00	8,134.56	5,591.00	5,935.17
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	41,700.70	39,850.19	31,885.71	41,700.70	31,885.71	40,165.28
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	5.13	6.06	5.70	5.13	5.70	6.77
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
	1. Basic:	1.38	1.25	0.88	3.91	2.67	3.78
	2. Diluted:	1.38	1.25	0.88	3.91	2.67	3.78
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	432.69	421.12	386.40	432.69	386.40	397.97
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable					
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable					

Notes:
a) The above results have been recommended by the Audit Committee of Directors and approved by Board of Director in their respective meetings held on 20.01.2024 and have been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the company.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and year-to-date financial results filed with stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the said financial results are available on the website of the company www.ireda.in and on the websites of stock exchanges www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com.
c) The company has completed its Initial Public Offering (IPO) of 67.19 Cr equity shares of face value of Rs.10/- each, consisting of fresh issue of 40.31 Cr equity shares and an offer for sale of 26.88 Cr equity shares by the selling shareholders i.e. Government of India, at an Offer issue price of ₹ 32/- per equity share (including premium of ₹ 22/- per equity share). The equity shares of the Company were listed on BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited on 29th November 2023.
d) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges and can be accessed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No. 07448576

Date : 20.01.2024
Place : Kevadia, Gujarat

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THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. Sheetal Devi, an Indian para-athlete, achieved the distinction of being the first-ever Indian athlete to win the Best Youth Athlete of the Year award at the Asian Awards 2023 in Riyadh this November. Can you identify the sport in which she excels?
2. India secured an additional 38 medals in the Asian Games 2023 compared to the tally achieved by the contingent in the 2018 Asian Games. What was the total medal count for India in the 2023 Asian Games?
3. Which Indian cricketer surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries by hitting his 50th ODI century during the 2023 ODI World Cup?

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1. 3
2. BADMINTON
3. PARUL CHAUDARY

I came to Australia with confidence, says Nagal

'The matches seemed like the ones I would like to play; I was really happy about my performances'

TENNIS

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

After his impressive run from the qualifiers to the second round of the Australian Open, India's top-ranked singles player Sumit Nagal has moved closer to the ATP top-100. He is No.127 in the live rankings, and a bit more upward mobility will almost guarantee a direct entry into Grand Slam tournaments.

"It's easy on your body as you don't have to go through three rounds of qualifying," said the 26-year-old during a virtual media interaction on Saturday. "It will help your finances, knowing you're in the main draw and guaranteed this much amount of money which you can invest in your team."

On the rise: Nagal believes that a bit more upward mobility in his rankings will make it easier on the body. AP

Nagal, who defeated Geoffrey Blancaneaux, Edward Winter and Alex Molcan in the qualifying before the big scalp of World No. 27 Alexander Bublik, revealed how he prepared for the year's first Slam.

"I was there [Australia] early to get used to the conditions, the wind and the fast courts," Nagal said. "When the draw came out, I had a lot of belief in myself. The matches seemed like the ones I would like to play. I was really happy about my performances."

Nagal had started last season outside the top-500, but managed to finish inside the top-150, with two Challenger titles to go with two runner-up finishes and two semifinals. "I came to Australia with confidence and tennis is much easier when you're confident. I feel everything went my way and I worked very hard to be in that spot."

Tamil Nadu's Gowin survives scare from Zenith

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

N. Anbless Gowin of Tamil Nadu overcame S. H. Zenith of Manipur 15-11 in the boys' epee summit clash of the 6th Khelo India Youth Games held here on Saturday. Kaushik Khanak of Delhi beat Negi Himanshi (Haryana) 15-12 in the girls' sabre fencing final.

Earlier, twins K. Devesh and K. Sarvesh of Tamil Nadu won gold in the yogasana rhythmic pair boys' section with a total of 127.89 points.

In kabaddi, the Tamil Nadu girls' team defeated Maharashtra 41-32 in Group A to reach the semifinals.

The results (round-of-16):

Anbless Gowin won fencing gold in boys' epee.

Squash: Boys: Tavneet Singh Mundra (MP) bt Vansh Chandrakar (CG) 11-2, 11-2, 11-4; Ansh Tripathi (UP) bt Rachit Kumar Shailya (UP) 14-12, 11-9, 11-6; P. R. Sandhesh (TN) bt Rishi Panwar (Raj) 11-3 11-8 11-8.
L. Meyyappan (TN) bt Dishant Murjani (Raj) 10-12, 11-5, 8-11, 11-2, 13-11; K. S. Arihant (TN) bt Malay Rathod (CG) 11-2, 11-2, 11-1.
Karan Yadav (UP) bt Aakash Kannan (TN) 11-5, 11-4, 11-9; Avalokit Singh (Raj) bt Abhay S Vasudev (TN) 11-3, 11-8, 11-5; Aryan Pratap Singh (UP) bt Gautham R Das (Ker) 11-5, 11-4, 11-3.
Girls: R. Pooja Arthi (TN) bt Subhadra K Sony (Ker) 11-2, 11-2, 11-2; Yashi Jain (Raj) bt Vaibhavi Baalaje (Kar) 11-1, 11-5, 11-8.
V. Deepika (TN) bt Khushi Puranik (Del) 11-7, 11-7, 11-7; Chhavi Saran (Raj) bt Reiva Nimbalkar (Mah) 11-6, 11-6, 6-11, 11-7; Shameena Riaz (TN) bt Chitrangda Goel (UP) 11-3, 14-12, 8-11, 11-3.
Khushboo (UP) bt Dhritih Kandpal (Guj) 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4; Unnati Tripathi (UP) bt Chazerina Benjamin (MP) 11-5, 11-3, 11-1; Nirupama Dubey (MH) bt Perina Sharma (Del) 1-0 retd.

Jamshedpur beats Lajong to finish with all-win record

SUPER CUP

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Jamshedpur FC blanked Shillong Lajong FC 2-0 in its concluding Group-B league match to finish with an all-win record and progress to the semifinals of the Kalinga Super Cup on Saturday.

Jamshedpur FChas shown a remarkable turnaround under its new coach Khalid Jamil and topped the group with full nine points.

Jamshedpur FC will meet East Bengal FC in the first semifinal on Jan. 24.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 2 (Sanan Mohammed 45+1, Thongkhosiem Haokip 74) bt Shillong Lajong FC 0.
Kerala Blasters 1 (Diamantakos 70) lost to NorthEast United 4 (Gogoi 2, Bemammer 68, Tlang 75, Jithin 80).

Sriperumbudur set for new karting track later this year

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

India's latest CIK (world body for karting)-approved track, measuring about 1.2kms, is all set for inauguration later this year at the Madras International Circuit, Sriperumbudur, according to Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) vice-president Vicky Chandhok,. Speaking at the MMSC Awards Function here on Saturday when the winners of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle and car racing championships were honoured, Chandhok said: " The track is being built at a cost of about Rs. 16 crore, and we have received all the necessary approvals from CIK."

The winners: Surineni, Diljith, Lani Zena, Ahamed, Arun Mammen (vice-chairman and MD, MRF Tyres), Sandeep, Deepak, Matharoo and Goud at the felicitation ceremony. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The National champions:
2-Wheeler racing: Pro-Stock 301-400cc: Rider Champion: Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate). **Team Champion:** Petronas TVS Racing. **Manufacturer champion:** Yamaha.

Pro-Stock 165cc: Rider: KY Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing). **Team:** Petronas TVS Racing. **Manufacturer:** Yamaha.

Novice (Stock 165cc): Rider: Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club). **Team:** Axor Sparks Racing. **Manufacturer:** Yamaha.

Girls (Stock 165cc): Rider: Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate). **Team:** Alpha Racing. **Manufacturer:** Yamaha.

TVS Open (Apache RR 310): Rider: Chiranth Vishwanath.

TVS Girls (Apache RTR 200): Rider: Nithila Das.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup – Open (NSF 250R): Rider: Kavin Quintal.
4-Wheeler racing: MRF Formula 2000: Driver: Sandeep Kumar.
MRF Formula 1600: Driver: Chetan Surineni.
Indian Touring Cars: Driver: Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts). **Team:** Race Concepts.
Indian Junior Touring Cars: Driver: Deepak Ravikumar (Team Performance Racing). **Team:** DTS Racing.
Super Stock: Driver: T. S. Diljith (DTS Racing). **Team:** Redline Racing.
Formula LGB 1300: Driver: Diljith. **Team:** DTS Racing.
MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios): Driver: Angad Matharo (Redline Racing).

Monnet eases past Rutuja to make it to the title round

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

India's Rutuja Bhosale went down tamely to sixth seed Carole Monnet 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open tennis tournament at KSLTA Stadium here on Saturday.

Carole will meet the top seed Darja Semenistaja in the title clash on Sunday. Darja overcame the challenge of qualifier Naho Sato of Japan 6-4, 6-1 in the other semifinal.

Breezing through: Darja overcame Sato of Japan in straight sets. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Semifinals: Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Naho Sato (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1; Carole Monnet (FRA) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles: Final: Camilla Rosatello (Ita) & Semenistaja bt Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) & Eri Shimizu (Jpn) 3-6, 6-2, [10-8].

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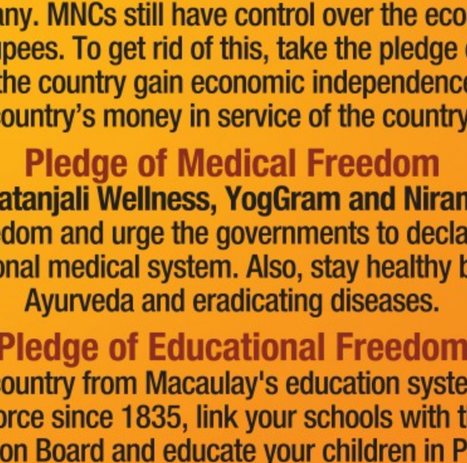
The usage of the medicines mentioned is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.



Take a pledge on the occasion of the consecration of Ram Lala

To follow the ideals of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ramji and to bring Ram Rajya in the country by making Sanatan Dharma the religion of the era and to free the country from all kinds of economic, ideological, cultural, educational and medical slavery and to make it completely self-reliant and prosperous.

Pledge for Swadeshi
Trillions of rupees have been looted since the time of the East India Company. MNCs still have control over the economy worth trillions of rupees. To get rid of this, take the pledge of Swadeshi and help the country gain economic independence. Use the country's money in service of the country.

Pledge of Medical Freedom
Come to **Patanjali Wellness, YogGram and Niramayam** for medical freedom and urge the governments to declare Ayurveda as the national medical system. Also, stay healthy by adopting Ayurveda and eradicating diseases.

Pledge of Educational Freedom
To save the country from Macaulay's education system which has been in force since 1835, link your schools with the Indian Education Board and educate your children in Patanjali Gurukulam, Acharyakulam to play a major role in developing children with a great personality, conduct and leadership qualities.

Contact for more information at 8954555999
(Timings: 6 AM to 10 PM)
www.patanjaligurukulam.org.in | www.bsb.org.in

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For asthma, cough, cold, etc. | For BP and sugar | For arthritis, joint pain and Vata diseases | For liver diseases and digestive system

SUNDAY
January 21, 2024
BENGALURU

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
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THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In Association with
NITTE (Deemed to be University) | CHRIST (Deemed to be University) BANGALORE - INDIA

COME, BE PART OF MANY STORIES AT THE HINDU LIT FEST 2024

Every session promises an experience that you do not want to miss.

SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL — Day 1 - January 26, 2024 — THE HINDU PAVILION

9.30 am
Inauguration

9.50 am
Rich India: Will India Become a Wealthy Nation by 2047?
Jayati Ghosh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, N. Ravi, Sanjay Kaul and T.N. Ninan in conversation with Raghuvir Srinivasan

11.10 am
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi I Am An Ordinary Man: India's Struggle for Freedom (1914-1948)
Gopalkrishna Gandhi

12.00 pm
Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle Against the British Maritime Empire
A.R. Venkatachalapathy in conversation with Ramachandra Guha

12.55 pm
Remembering Vivan Sundaram: A Journey Through Images
Ashish Rajadhyaksha

2.20 pm
The Power Couple: The Life and Times of Sudha and Narayana Murthy
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in conversation with Shunali Shroff

3.15 pm
Recalling Habib Tanvir: Excerpts from the Film and a Talk
Sudhanva Deshpande

4.10 pm
Bahubali: Insights into Jainism
Devdutt Pattanaik

4.55 pm
Food Against Fanaticism
Subodh Kerkar

5.45 pm
Wizard of Words
Shashi Tharoor in conversation with David Davidar

6.50 pm
Imaging Women Nationalists: Serving the Nation State
Anita Ratnam and Shovana Narayan in conversation with Shalin Maria Lawrence

7.55 pm
The Sporting Heroine
Taapsee Pannu in conversation with Vidya Singh

9.45 am
Faultlines of Faith
Arjun Appadurai, Revati Laul, and Ziya us Salam in conversation with Varghese K. George

10.50 am
Memory and Home: Home and Life in Exile
Ronya Othmann in conversation with Katharina Gorgen

11.45 am
Finding the Song in Sangam Poetry
T.M. Krishna and Perumal Murugan in conversation (Bilingual)

12.40 pm
The Inner Workings of Power
Neerja Chowdhury in conversation with Ramya Kannan

2.10 pm
May I Have Your Attention Please?: How to Hold an Audience
Anuradha Menon, Cyrus Broacha, and Kanan Gill in conversation with Suresh Balakrishna

3.15 pm
The Maverick Politician
Mani Shankar Aiyar in conversation with Chandan Gowda

4.10 pm
Breakup: A Marriage in Wartime
Anjan Sundaram in conversation with Stanly Johny

5.15 pm
Breaking Form to Build Narrative: An Experiment with Translation
Charu Nivedita and Nandini Krishnan in conversation (Bilingual)

6.00 pm
Too Woke To Be Funny
Kiran Manral and Shunali Shroff in conversation with Rosella Stephen

Scan and register to participate or visit newsth.live/Litfest2024

THE HINDU

26th & 27th January 2024
Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Chennai.

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Day 2 - January 27, 2024

SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL

10.00 am
The Power of Idol Worship
Amish and Bhavna Roy in conversation with Anita Ratnam

10.55 am
Let's Talk Money: Making Your Money Work For You
Monika Halan in conversation with Aarathi Krishnan

11.55 am
The Cooking of Books
Ramachandra Guha in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman

12.50 pm
Journey to India Modern
Tarun Tahiliani in conversation with Rosella Stephen

2.25 pm
Beyond the Kitchen: Chefs Forging a Fresh Culinary Landscape
Chef Manu Chandra, Chef Sashi Cheliah, Chef Thomas Zacharias in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly

3.30 pm
A Viral World: Countering Fake News
Sreenivasan Jain, N. Ram and Pratik Sinha in conversation with Ziya us Salam

4.40 pm
India's Last High Commissioner to Pakistan: The Inside Story
Ajay Bisaria in conversation with Varghese K. George

5.35 pm
The Body Politic
Pushpamala N

6.25 pm
Democracy Fatigue: Why is the World Moving Towards the Right?
Arjun Appadurai

7.10 pm
Transformative Leadership in ISRO: My Experience
S. Somanath

THE HINDU PAVILION

10.00 am
Some Truths About Pain and Suffering
Shweta Singh Kirti in conversation with Chitra Mahesh

10.55 am
A Crime Wave
Anuja Chauhan, Harini Nagendra, Kiran Manral and Tarun Mehrishi in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar

12.00 pm
The World of Storyteller: The Power of Rooted Fiction
Tejaswini Apte-Rahm and Abdullah Khan in conversation with Nandini Krishnan

12.55 pm
A Taste of Memory: A Celebration of Food and Family
Tarana Husain Khan and Rakesh Raghunathan in conversation with Deepa S. Reddy

2.30 pm
Acts of God
Kanan Gill in conversation with Anuradha Menon

3.25 pm
Doubled Distilled Fiction
Daisy Rockwell in conversation with K. Srilata

4.20 pm
Dalit History: Text and Context Reading and Reconstructing Dalit History through Dalit Non-Fiction
Stalin Rajangam in conversation with G. Gurusamy (Tamil)

5.15 pm
Another India: Events, Memories People
Chandan Gowda in conversation with Suresh Seshadri

6.10 pm
Narratives of the Oppressed: Voices of Assertion
Perumal Murugan and Azhagiya Periyavan in conversation (Tamil)

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THE HINDU

26th & 27th January 2024
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JERUSALEM

Netanyahu tells Biden he opposes Palestinian sovereignty in Gaza

REUTERS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told U.S. President Joe Biden that he rejected Palestinian sovereignty in the Gaza Strip, in a call the day before. They spoke by phone for the first time in a month, with Biden saying after the call that he believed it was still possible Netanyahu could agree to a form of Palestinian state. AFP

YANSHANPU

Fire at school dormitory in central China kills thirteen students

AFP

Thirteen schoolchildren died in a dormitory fire in central China's Henan province. The blaze at the Yingcai School in Henan's Yanshanpu village was reported to the local fire department at 11:00 pm on Friday night. A teacher at the school said all the victims were from the same third-grade class of nine and 10-year-olds. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Internet disrupted again during opposition web broadcast

AP

Pakistan's social media and Internet services were severely throttled on Saturday night, as the party of jailed ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan held a "virtual rally" ahead of elections in under three weeks. The outage is the second in two weeks coinciding with online campaign events organised by Khan's PTI party. PTI

WASHINGTON

European crew, including first Turkiye astronaut, arrives at ISS

AFP

An all-European crew including Turkiye's first astronaut arrived at the International Space Station on Saturday on a voyage chartered by Axiom Space. It is the company's third launch to the space laboratory and the first where all three of the paid seats were bought by national agencies, rather than wealthy individuals. AFP

Iran launches satellite as regional tensions spike

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards launched a research satellite putting it into a higher orbit in a new milestone for its aerospace programme. The U.S. has repeatedly warned Iran against such launches, saying the same technology can be used for ballistic missiles, including ones designed to deliver a nuclear warhead.

"The Soraya satellite was successfully launched with the Ghaem-100 satellite carrier of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," the official news agency said. "This is the first time that Iran has successfully placed a satellite in orbits higher than 500 km," IRNA said. The satellite which weighs about 50 kg was put in orbit 750 km above Earth.

'Israeli strike on Damascus kills Iran's spy chief for Syria'

Along with 10 others, four members of the Iran's Revolutionary Guards were killed; Israel has stepped up its attacks on Syria ever since war broke out against Hamas in Gaza Strip on October 7

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

An Israeli strike on Damascus killed the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' spy chief for Syria and three other Guards members on Saturday, Iran said, in an attack that tore into a multi-storey residential building.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said 10 persons were killed in the Israeli strike on the Mazzeh neighbourhood of the capital Damascus.

In recent weeks, Israel has been accused of intensifying strikes on senior Iranian and allied figures in Syria and Lebanon – backers of the Palestinian militant group Hamas – raising fears the Gaza conflict could expand.

High stakes: Security personnel search the rubble of a building destroyed in a reported Israeli strike in Damascus on Saturday. AFP

"The Revolutionary Guards' Syria intel chief, his deputy and two other Guards members were martyred in the attack on Syria by Israel," Iran's Mehr news agency said.

The Guards' Sepah news agency identified them as Hojatollah Omidvar, Ali Aghazadeh, Hossein Mohammadi and Saeed Karimi.

The war-torn country's official news agency, SANA, said a residential building in Damascus' Mazzeh neighbourhood had been targeted in what it called "an Israeli aggression".

Decade of civil war

During more than a decade of civil war in Syria, Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes on its territory, targeting Iran-backed forces as well as Syrian Army positions. But it has intensified attacks since the war between Israel and Hamas, which like Lebanon's Hezbollah movement is an ally of Iran, began on October 7.

Saturday's presumed Israeli strike was their second high-profile targeted assassination in Syria in less than a month.

In December, an Israeli air strike killed a senior Iranian general in Syria.

EU's Josep Borrell says Israel 'created, financed' Hamas

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

The EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell late on Friday accused Israel of having "created" and "financed" the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which launched unprecedented attacks on Israel on October 7.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has in recent days reaffirmed his opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, drawing criticism from his U.S. ally, which is still advocating a "two-state solution".

"We believe that a two-state solution must be imposed from outside to bring peace. Although, I insist, Israel is reaffirming its refusal (of this solution), and to prevent it they have gone so far as to create Hamas themselves," Mr. Borrell said.

Josep Borrell

"Hamas has been financed by the Israeli government to try to weaken the Palestinian Authority of Fatah.

"But if we do not intervene strongly, the spiral of hate and violence will continue from generation to generation, from funeral to funeral, as the seeds of hatred that are being sown in Gaza today flourish," he added during a speech in Spanish at the University of Valladolid in central Spain, which awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Hamas was created in December 1987 shortly after the start of the first Palestinian intifada in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories by a group of Islamist militants claiming to be from the Muslim Brotherhood.

Hamas, the Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, was notably founded to counter the Islamic Jihad militant group and compete with the mainly secular Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) then led by Yasser Arafat.

Twenty years later, in June 2007, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip.

In recent years, the Gaza Strip, controlled by Hamas and under Israeli blockade, has received millions of dollars in aid from Qatar, provoking criticism of Netanyahu, who is accused of having favoured financing of the movement. The Prime Minister denies the accusation.

Ethnic killings in a Sudan city left up to 15,000 dead, says UN

Reuters
UNITED NATIONS/CAIRO

A UN report accuses the RSF of targeting the ethnic African Masalit tribe in attacks that 'may amount to war crimes'

Between 10,000 and 15,000 people were killed in one city in Sudan's West Darfur region last year in ethnic violence by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied Arab militia, according to a United Nations report seen by Reuters on Friday.

Variation in figures

In the report to the UN Security Council, independent UN sanctions monitors contrasted the toll in El Geneina with the UN estimate that about 12,000 people have been killed across Sudan since war erupted on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese Army and the RSF.

The monitors also described as "credible" accusations that the UAE had provided military support to the RSF "several times per week" via Amdjarass in northern Chad.

In a letter to the monitors, the UAE said 122 flights had delivered humanitarian aid to Amdjarass to help Sudanese fleeing the war. The United Nations says about 5,00,000 people have fled Sudan into eastern Chad, several hundred kilometers south of Amdjarass.

Between April and June last year, El Geneina experienced "intense violence," the monitors wrote, accusing the RSF and allies of targeting the ethnic African Masalit tribe in attacks that "may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Nepal requests Russia not to recruit its nationals into Army

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal has requested Russia not to admit Nepalese nationals into the Russian Army and help repatriate those who have already joined the country's forces to fight the war in Ukraine. At least 200 Nepalese youth have joined the Russian Army through illegal channels and 12 of them have already lost their lives while fighting against Ukraine.

Nepalese Foreign Minister N. P. Saud, during his meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Vershinin Sergey Vasilievich on Friday on the sidelines of the ongoing Non-Aligned Summit in Kampala, Uganda, asked Russia "not to recruit Nepalese nationals into the country's Army and to help repatriate those who have already joined the forces", according to the private secretariat of Mr. Saud.

Mr. Saud clarified that "Nepal has no policy to send its nationals to foreign Army except those few countries with which it has traditional arrangements. Therefore, I have asked the Russian Minister not to recruit our nationals into its Army," Mr. Saud was quoted as saying by his personal secretariat.

Mr. Saud also asked the Russian side to "send back the dead bodies of those killed in the Russia-Ukraine war while fighting for the Russian Army and to provide due compensation to the family of the victims".

The Russian side has informed Mr. Saud that necessary arrangements will be made to provide compensation to the family of the deceased as per the Russian law. Mr. Vesilievich, who is also the leader to the NAM Summit from Russia, has assured Mr. Saud that initiatives will be taken to address the concerns raised by Nepal.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
ANGUL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, DHENKANAL
No.18 / Dt.18/01/2024
e - Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. AMIC/01/2023-24
e-mail ID : ace.dkl2023@gmail.com
The Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Minor Irrigation Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of the work	Civil works in Different Block of Dhenkanal & Angul District for the year 2023-24 under CLSRP Scheme .
No. of Works	02 (Two) Only
Estimated Cost	Varies from 202.18 lakh to 291.37 lakh (Approximately)
Cost of Tender Paper	10000/-
Period of Completion	09 (Nine) Calendar months
Availability of Bid documents for sale and receipt through on-line	From dt.25.01.2024, 10.00 A.M, to dt.08.02.2024, up to 5.00 P.M
Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	08.02.2024 (5.00 PM)
Date of Technical bid opening through online	On dt. 09.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Addl C.E., Angul M.I. Circle, Dhenkanal.
Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	The Bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC).
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR web site - http:/dowrorissa.gov.in	
Name & Address of the OIT	Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Minor Irrigation Circle, Dhenkanal. At / P.O / District - Dhenkanal. , Email ID: ace.dkl2023@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, http://tendersorissa.gov.in	

Additional Chief Engineer, Angul M.I.Circle, Dhenkanal
A-1165 : OIPR-32522/11/0001/2324

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-39/532/2023-24 Date : 20.01.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-II & above (Electrical) issued from KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of Reconditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Vasantha Narsapura 1st, 2nd & 3rd Phase IA, Housing layout & JIP, Tumakuru District. 2nd Call.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **06.02.2024** upto **04:00** pm.
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3163/Zen/2023-24 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

Phone No. : (0663)-2412135; Fax No. : (0663) 2412335
Email ID : eephdsbp@gmail.com .
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, SAMBALPUR.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SEPHSBP-13/2023-24 Dt.16.01.2024

01.	Name of the Work	: 2 nos. Work
02.	Type of Bid	: Two Bid System
03.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.314.76 Lakhs to Rs.529.47 Lakhs
04.	Class of Contractor	: Manufacturer
05.	Period of Completion	: 60 (Sixty) days
06.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.22.01.2024 to 5.00 PM of 06.02.2024
07.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 06.02.2024
08.	Date & Time of opening of Tender	: At 11.30 AM of 07.02.2024
09.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po-Motijharan, Dist - Sambalpur-768 001.

Further details can be seen from the web site http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Division, Sambalpur
C-2386 : OIPR-13026/11/0022/2324

E-mail: eerwssnpd@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
R.W.S.&S. DIVISION, NUAPADA
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. RWS&S_11/2023-24
The Superintending Engineer, R.W.S & S Division, Nuapada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids through e-procurement in double cover system in conformity with the terms & conditions of the detailed tender call notice (DTCN) from the Contractor registered with the Odisha State Govt. & Contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Govt. / any other State Govt. / MES / Railway & Reputed Engineering firms having valid & up to date Contractors registration certificate, GST clearance Certificate & PAN Card and possessing compatible Digital Signature Certificate as given in the DTCN to be eventually drawn up in the standard Lump sum **(G2)** contract form.

Nature of Work	: - Rural Piped Water Supply schemes in different left out habitation under Nuapada district.
No. of Tender	: - 06 (Six) no.
Approx. Estimated Cost	: - Rs. 68.08 and 432.62 Lakhs
Period of completion	: - 6 to 11 (eight to eleven) months
Tender Cost	: - Rs.10000/-
Class of Contractor	: - Class B & A
Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: - 30.01.2024 at 10.00 A.M.
Last date /Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: - 13.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
Date of Opening of bid	: - 15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: http://tendersorissa.gov.in
(Er.P.C.Dash) Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Nuapada
O-2256: OIPR-25043/11/0004/2324

IISER BERHAMPUR
भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur
Established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India
Advt. No. NT- 01/2024 Date: January 17, 2024
Recruitment Notice for Non-Teaching Positions
Opening date for submission of online application: **0900 hrs. of February 05, 2024**
Closing date of submission of online application: **1730 hrs. of March 05, 2024**
Crucial date for calculation of age/qualification/experience: **March 05, 2024**
The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur, an Institute of National Importance, established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in order to promote higher scientific learning and research as well as scientific exploration at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of education and to create scientists and academicians of the highest quality invites **ONLINE applications** from eligible Indian nationals to fill-up the following sanctioned regular posts as per the reservation and mode of recruitment mentioned against each: -

S. No.	Name of the posts	Group	Pay level (as per 7th CPC)	Mode of recruitment	Reservation Status					Total No. of posts
					UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	
1	Superintending Engineer	A	13	Direct Recruitment	01	00	00	00	00	01
2	Junior Superintendent	B	06	Direct Recruitment	02	00	00	00	00	02
				Total	03	00	00	00	00	03

Note: The candidates are required to apply through ONLINE process only. Please visit Institute website **www.iiserbpr.ac.in** for submission of online application and full text of the advertisement for all other details regarding age relaxation, probation, recruitment rules etc.
Sd/-
कुलसचिव / Registrar

Therapeutic antibody may enhance snake venom toxicity

The Hindu Bureau

A potential therapeutic antibody, which could be used to neutralise a snake bite venom toxin, may actually enhance the toxin's damaging effects, suggests a mouse model published in the journal *Nature Communications*. The findings may uncover a potential risk from an antibody which, according to laboratory experiments, could be used to neutralise a venom toxin from the pit viper *Bothrops asper*.

Every year, 2.7 million people are bitten by snakes globally and venomous snake bites kill and permanently disable hundreds of thousands of people. There is an urgent need globally for safer and effective therapies to treat snake bites.

Limited effect

Current antivenom therapies using animal-derived blood serum are limited in their effectiveness, are expensive to produce, and can result in adverse immune reactions. This has led to researchers pursuing the development of recombinant antivenoms based on human antibodies. Previous studies have identified and characterised potential antibody-based therapeutics that have shown promising results in preclinical animal models of snakebite envenoming. *Bothrops asper* viper venom contains myotoxin II, a substance that leads to muscle tissue destruction and can result in long-term disability or even death. Andreas Laustsen from the Technical University of Denmark and others identified potential antibody candidates to neutralise myotoxin II toxin in laboratory experiments.

However, when they assessed their efficacy using a mouse model of snake envenoming, they found that the YTE-mutated IgG antibody actually enhanced the effect of the toxin, rather than neutralising it. These findings are the first demonstration of antibody-enhanced disease seen in this context and highlight the importance of thorough preclinical testing of antivenom candidates in more relevant contexts. The authors highlight the need for careful consideration of antibody design and testing protocols to avoid unintended harmful effects. Further research is required to optimize these therapeutic antibodies. "While clinical ADET [antibody-dependent enhancement of toxicity] related to snake venom has not yet been reported in humans, this report of ADET of a toxin from the animal kingdom highlights the necessity of assessing even well-known antibody formats in representative preclinical models to evaluate their therapeutic utility against toxins or venoms," they write.

Whether this effect is unique to this particular antibody and toxin, or something that occurs more widely, and whether this is also seen in humans is yet to be determined.

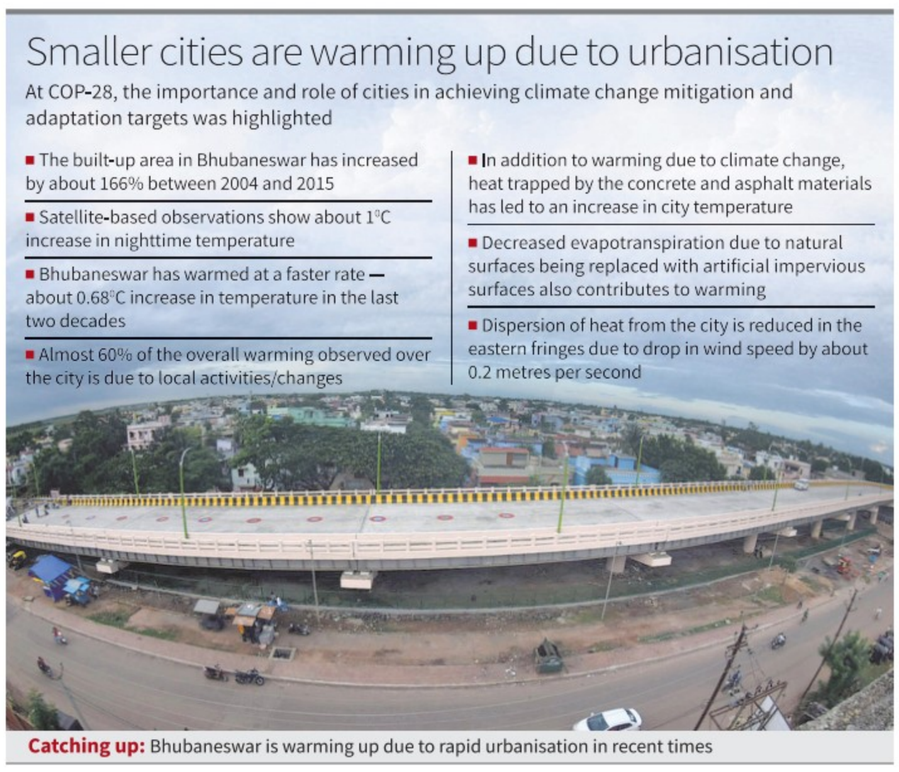
Urbanisation in Bhubaneswar impacts winter temperatures

Both the terrain and local microclimate play a significant role in shaping winter urban surface temperatures, highlighting the complex interplay between urbanisation and climate

V. Vinoj

More than half of the world's population now resides in the cities and are thus vulnerable to urban climate change such as increased heat stress and extremes. Globally, cities contribute to more than 80% of the global GDP and 75% of all greenhouse gases/carbon emissions. Thus, they are both contributors to climate change and also potential agents for tackling it. However, their representation in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans is inadequate. Nevertheless, in recent times, the inclusion of the 11th sustainable development goal (SDG) exclusively focusing on cities and the formation of groups like the U-20 under the G-20 umbrella have acknowledged the need for city-level action plans. The ministerial meeting on urbanisation and climate change at COP-28 stressed the importance and role of cities in achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation targets. These initiatives show the importance attached to cities and their role in global affairs including climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Bhubaneswar, a tier-II city in the eastern State of Odisha, is rapidly urbanising in recent times. For example, the built-up area in the city increased by about 166% during the period 2004-2015. Studies using satellite-based observations showed a nighttime heat dome over the city with an elevated temperature (about 1C). Additionally, Bhubaneswar has warmed at a faster rate, with almost about 0.68C enhancement in the last two decades. Such warming is particularly higher in the newly urbanising areas in the periphery of the city, experiencing almost doubled warming over the same period.


Smaller cities are warming up due to urbanisation
At COP-28, the importance and role of cities in achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation targets was highlighted
The built-up area in Bhubaneswar has increased by about 166% between 2004 and 2015
Satellite-based observations show about 1°C increase in nighttime temperature
Bhubaneswar has warmed at a faster rate — about 0.68°C increase in temperature in the last two decades
Almost 60% of the overall warming observed over the city is due to local activities/changes
In addition to warming due to climate change, heat trapped by the concrete and asphalt materials has led to an increase in city temperature
Decreased evapotranspiration due to natural surfaces being replaced with artificial impervious surfaces also contributes to warming
Dispersion of heat from the city is reduced in the eastern fringes due to drop in wind speed by about 0.2 metres per second
Catching up: Bhubaneswar is warming up due to rapid urbanisation in recent times

Local activities

As part of a larger effort in implementing the cities digital twin at the School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences at IIT Bhubaneswar, computer-based simulations were carried out to mimic the Bhubaneswar urban growth and hence change in the micro-climate and their relation to different factors such as climate change, city expansion, change in vegetation cover, etc. It was quantified that almost 60% of the overall warming observed over the city is due to local activities/changes. These studies were recently published in the journal *Computational Urban Science*.

In addition to the warming due to climate change, there is additional warming due to the trapping of heat by the concrete and asphalt materials used to build the city. The decreased evapotranspiration due to the replacement of natural surfaces with artificial impervious surfaces is also contributing to the observed warming. The inclusion of a minimalistic 3-D structure of the city within these simulations for winter time showed enhanced warming of almost 0.4C in the eastern lowland regions of the city mostly as a consequence of topographical asymmetry. There was further reduction in the wind speeds by about 0.2 metres per second, in the eastern fringes of the city, limiting dispersion of heat. In contrast, in the western region, the influence is nullified, possibly due to lower surface specific humidity affecting longwave radiation in a higher terrain setting. Both the terrain and local microclimate play a significant role in shaping winter urban surface temperatures, highlighting the complex interplay between urbanisation and climate. Urban planning to mitigate or adapt to these changes require systematic scientific explorations.

These changes are expected to further modify the spatial pattern, intensity, and duration of rainfall events with implication to urban floods. These changes are also expected to modify the dispersion characteristics of air pollution within the city. Thus the implementation of a digital twin for the city will help in the experimentation of different mitigation strategies like cool roofs, highly reflective pavements, and blue-green infrastructure (water bodies and green spaces). Substantial changes associated with urbanisation even for such a small tier-II city highlights the potential for local scale mitigation efforts to control the observed warming and their subsequent effects.

Amplifying factors

The ever-increasing population load and enhanced dependence on city resources will continue in the future, amplifying the hovering clouds of vulnerability/danger over the cities in the absence of city specific science driven strategies. Thus, building climate-resilient smart cities is important to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of the ever-increasing urban population. Unlike the saturated big metro/mega cities, smaller cities have a larger scope for planned growth and expansion and, hence, the potential to shift their growth trajectory towards sustainability. Therefore, as the harbingers of future climate change, comprehensive city-scale climate action plans supported by science to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of urbanisation and climate change are the need of the hour.

(V. Vinoj is Associate Professor in the School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences at IIT Bhubaneswar)

How to deal with memory loss

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Many senior citizens like me, who are in their 80s, often tend to forget people whom we had known very well before, but are puzzled and embarrassed when they meet and ask you how are you, or events like: "Uncle, do you remember me, when I came to your house? Or, "Hello my friend, how long has it been since we met; how are you"? This kind of a temporary blackout is common. In this connection, my young colleague, Dr Durgadas Kasbekar, pointed out some relevant and humorous quotes relating to this. One of them is by Sir Norman Wisdom, who wrote: "As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two". Another is from the American writer Mark Twain who wrote: "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened"!

Cases in contrast

In stark contrast to this are some very old persons, who distinctly remember every person they interacted with and events in their lives. An excellent example was Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the scientist who recently passed away at the age of 98. Through his efforts he transformed India from a food-importing country into a food-exporting one within 50 years. And he had a remarkable memory of people and events.

This was indeed a rejoinder to Norman Wisdom and Mark Twain! Another such example is the outstanding cricket player C.D. Gopinath, who made his debut in 1951-52 and is now 93.

Important steps: Sleeping and exercising play a big role in slowing down memory loss. ISTOCKPHOTO

Not every senior citizen is so gifted. So how can we deal with forgetfulness? Some useful tips are to learn a new skill; follow a daily routine; plan tasks, make to-do lists, and use memory tools such as calendars and notes; put your wallet or purse, keys, phone, and glasses in the same place each day; stay involved in activities that help both the mind and body; volunteer in your community to deal with memory loss - at a school or at your place of worship; spend time with family and friends; get enough sleep, generally seven-eight hours each night; exercise and eat well; prevent or control high blood pressure; avoid or limit drinking alcohol and; consult a doctor if you feel depressed for weeks at a time. Personally, I have attempted to follow all these tips, and find them very useful.

What are other various ways in which we slow memory loss and keep our minds alert and active? In fact, in these days of computer video games, a recent randomised controlled trial paper, with 107 people recruited by Drs D.P. Devanand of Columbia University and Murali Doraiswamy of Duke University report that crossword puzzles beat computer video games in slowing memory loss.

Personally, I find it very useful to attempt and solve crossword puzzles, unscramble five-six and seven-letter random combinations into meaningful words (e.g., 'sufmao' into 'famous'), and solve Sudoku. Other senior citizens might try these and other games, puzzles that appear in daily newspapers. So, my senior citizen-friends: follow all the 11 tips above, and solve whatever puzzles appeal to you in order to slow your memory loss!

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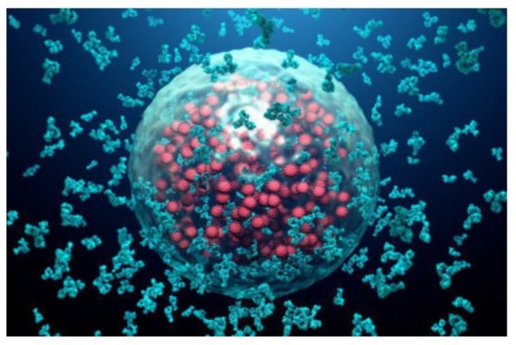
SNAPSHOTS

Serum protein changes could provide Long Covid diagnosis

Analysis of blood samples from patients with Long Covid a debilitating condition with unknown causes – has revealed serum protein changes as the likely culprit. The findings highlight potential biomarkers for Long Covid diagnosis and could yield insights into treating the condition. The changes to blood serum proteins indicates dysregulated activation of the complement system, altered coagulation, and tissue injury, suggesting ongoing thromboinflammatory responses.

Either a massive neutron star or low-mass black hole found

Researchers who used a telescope in South Africa report discovery of an object in the Milky Way that could either be the most massive – mass between 2.09 and 2.71 solar masses – neutron star ever observed, or the least massive black hole. There is a substantial gap between the masses of the heaviest measured neutron star and the lightest measured black hole – the most massive neutron stars generally range between 2.2 to 2.5 solar masses, while black holes of less than 5 solar masses are rare.



3 antibodies protect animals from HIV-like infections

Three different antibodies have been isolated and tested, which can each shield large animals from infections with simian-human immunodeficiency virus (SHIV), a chimera of SIV and HIV. The antibodies directed against the HIV fusion peptide provided almost complete protection against challenges with SHIV, adding further evidence that the fusion peptide can be targeted with neutralising antibodies for HIV.

Question Corner

Mesolithic diet

What did people on the west coast of Scandinavia eat 10,000 years ago?

A new study (*Scientific Reports*) of the DNA in a chewing gum shows that people on the west coast of Scandinavia ate deer, trout and hazelnuts as part of their diet, some 10,000 years ago. Some 9,700 years ago, a group of people were camping on the west coast of Scandinavia, north of what is today Göteborg. They had been fishing, hunting and collecting resources for food. Chewed resin was found together with remains of stone tools in a context dated to 9,700 years ago. The stone material also indicated a Mesolithic chronology. According to the researchers, identifying the different species present in the kind of mix of DNA that was present in the Mesolithic chewing gum was challenging. "We had to apply several computational heavy analytical tools to single out the different species and organisms. All the tools we needed were not ready to be applied to ancient DNA; much of our time was spent on adjusting them ," Dr. Andrés Aravena from Istanbul University said in a release

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How will the Iowa caucuses impact elections?

Is former President Donald Trump the favourite to win the Republican nomination for 2024 presidential polls?

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

The 2024 election season kicked off formally with the Republican Party's Iowa caucuses last Monday, the results of which confirmed the popularity of former U.S. President Donald Trump. Mr. Trump won the caucus with a wide margin over rivals Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida, and Nikki Haley, former Governor of South Carolina. The result indicates his overwhelming popularity within Republican ranks, and a broad swathe of demographic cohorts, making him the likely favourite for being the Republican nominee for the 2024 presidential election and mounting a challenge to the incumbent, Democratic President Joe Biden.

What voting patterns underlie the Iowa caucuses results?

With a commanding 30 point-lead over his competitors, the 45th President garnered 20 delegates in Iowa, compared to Mr. DeSantis' nine and Ms. Haley's eight delegates, respectively. A total of 1,215 delegates is required for a Republican candidate in order to win the Party's nomination.

Mr. Trump raised the bar on his margin of victory across Iowa compared to his performance in the 2016 caucuses, grabbing all but one of the counties there and 87% of the 1,657 precincts in the state. Yet not all the news was good for Mr. Trump –almost half the voters of the state, 49%, supported a candidate other than him. Further, his performance was remarkably weak in suburban and urban areas– he got less than 25% of the vote in more than 36 precincts even though he cornered over 90% of the votes cast in a similar number of rural precincts. Nevertheless, surveys conducted around polling in Iowa suggest that among those who voted for Mr. Trump were older and younger age cohorts, men and women, and far-right and evangelical caucus-goers – all indicative of a broadening of his support base since the 2016 election.

> Mr. Donald Trump's performance was remarkably weak in suburban and urban areas but surveys conducted around polling in Iowa suggest that his support base has widened since the 2016 election

Reports from the state also suggest that nearly 50% of Republicans considered themselves to be members of the "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" movement and close to 90% amongst this group believed certain falsehoods issued by the Trump campaign in 2020 and beyond, specifically the disproved allegation that the 2020 election was "stolen". It could be inferred that this cohort would be most likely to overlook the federal and state charges that Mr. Trump is currently facing relating to his role in fomenting the January 6, 2021, mob attack on the U.S. Capitol and direct election interference in the state of Georgia.

What challenge do his rivals pose?

Ms. Haley represents the greatest possibility of challenging Mr. Trump in the months ahead. All eyes are now on the next Republican contest in New Hampshire, which is a swing state and will be her best chance to slow Mr. Trump's momentum in this election season. New Hampshire is comprised of a far greater white and rural population than Iowa and, significantly, independent voters represent close to 40% of the electorate. There is a reasonable chance that these voters may prefer moderate candidates to Mr. Trump. However, this in a sense is the problem that Mr. Trump's rivals, such as Ms. Haley, face. Advance polls in New Hampshire are showing that either Mr. Trump is leading Ms. Haley by double digits, or that the former president is polling at 50% or higher. The reason for this margin is that while Ms. Haley is winning Independent voters by 10 to 20 points, Mr. Trump is scoring strongly with registered Republicans and leads in their support by nearly 40 points.

What does the voting so far say about the state of U.S. politics?

On the one hand, an analysis of the Iowa results suggests that it is quite likely that compared to 2016 and 2020, Mr. Trump will perform well electorally across the board in terms of geographic and demographic cohorts. However, the absolute numbers of voters backing Mr. Trump may not have risen significantly, or may even have declined, albeit in pockets rather than in majority groupings that could change political outcomes. Similarly, the disaggregation of voter support across political beliefs of voters hints at a rightward shift in Mr. Trump's base – he has performed better amongst the party faithful, including sizeable numbers of MAGA Republicans, than with Independents.

This potentially bodes ill for the prospect of bipartisanship in the federal government, which in turn complicates policymaking because it is unlikely that, in the post-November scenario, the White House and both Houses of the U.S. Congress will be controlled by the same party.

Why are conflicts spreading in West Asia?

How has a confrontation between Israel and Hamas snowballed into a regional security crisis? Who are the key players in operation and why are they pulling in different directions? What are the apprehensions of a prolonged war for the region and the world?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

West Asia is in flux. What started as a direct military confrontation between Israel and Hamas has snowballed into a regional security crisis. Hezbollah, Kataib Hezbollah, Hashad al-Shabi, Houthis, Iran, Pakistan and the United States are all now part of an expanding conflict theatre. As Israel's war on Gaza, which has killed more than 24,000 people in 100 days, is continuing with no foreseeable end, the related security crisis in the region is widening.

How has the Israel-Hamas war spilled over?

When Israel launched its war on Gaza, after Hamas's October 7 cross-border attack in which at least 1,200 Israelis were killed, there were fears that the conflict could spill over beyond Palestine. Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia group that's backed by Iran, fired rockets at Israeli forces in the Shebaa Farms, an Israeli-controlled territory which Lebanon claims as its own, in solidarity with the Palestinians. Ever since, Hezbollah and Israel have exchanged fire many times, though both were careful not to let tensions escalate into a full-blown war. While Arab countries, upset with Israel's indiscriminate bombing, stuck to the path of diplomacy to turn up pressure on the Jewish state, Iran-backed militias elsewhere opened new fronts. Houthis, the Shia militias of Yemen, started attacking commercial vessels in the Red Sea from mid-November, again in "solidarity with the Palestinians". Houthis, who control much of Yemen, including its Red Sea coast, has used sea denial tactics to target dozens of ships ever since, forcing several shipping giants to suspend operations in the Red Sea, which connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Arabian Sea (and the Indian Ocean) through the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

> The region is witnessing a widespread security crisis, involving both powerful states and non-state actors

When Houthi attacks imperilled the Red Sea traffic, the U.S., which continues to support Israel's war on Gaza, started carrying out airstrikes in Yemen, targeting Houthi positions. Hashad al-Shabi, the Shia Mobilisation Forces of Iraq and Syria, who are also backed by Iran, launched more than 100 attacks against U.S. troops deployed in the two countries. In retaliation, the U.S. carried out attacks in Syria, and killed a commander of Hashad al-Shabi in a hit in Baghdad, which led to protests by Iraq. Israel has carried out multiple strikes inside Syria and Lebanon, killing Hamas, Hezbollah and Iranian commanders. As instability spread, the Islamic State terror group attacked a memorial event for Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian general assassinated by the U.S. in January 2020, in Kerman, southeastern Iran. As it was coming under growing regional and domestic pressure, Iran carried out strikes on January 16, in Iraq's Kurdistan, Syria and Pakistan, claiming to have hit a Mossad operational centre and Sunni Islamist militants. In retaliation, Pakistan carried out air strikes in Iran on January 18.

Who are the main players in the crisis?

While multiple players are present in the crisis, there are three major operational centres – Israel, Iran and the U.S. Israel says it has the right to attack Gaza until it meets its objectives – dismantling Hamas and releasing hostages; Iran is the main backer of all anti-Israel non-state actors in West Asia, be it Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Houthis or the Shia militias of Iraq and Syria. The U.S., which has a widespread military presence in the region, has three objectives – to ensure the security of Israel, the security of America's troops and assets deployed in the region and the perseverance of the U.S.-led order in the region. So, the bottomline is that Israel is fighting a vengeful war on the Palestinians with full U.S. support; Iran-backed proxies are attacking Israel and American interests in the region in retaliation, while Iran seeks to strengthen its deterrence; and the U.S. is attacking these proxies to meet its objectives.

What does this mean for regional security?

This is an unstable situation. West Asia has seen conflicts in the past, between nation states (Iran and Iraq; and Israel and Arab nations) and states and non-state actors (Israel's wars with Hezbollah and Hamas). But currently, the region is witnessing a widespread security crisis, involving both powerful states and non-state actors.

Last time West Asia faced a major transnational war was in 1967 when Israel launched attacks on surrounding Arab countries. But the 1967 war concluded within six days, with Israel's decisive victory against the Arabs. Today, even after 100 days, the conflict is only escalating and widening.

In the past, the U.S. had retained a domineering presence in West Asia, shaping its geopolitical outcomes, and America's rivals were wary of breaching certain red lines. This was the backbone of the U.S.-led order in West Asia. Though Iran stayed out of it since 1979, it never risked a direct war with the U.S. or Israel. The current crisis suggests that the old order is in tatters. Iran-backed proxies are directly attacking both Israeli and American positions, while Iran is flexing its military muscle through cross-border attacks. The Houthis have challenged the U.S.'s ability to provide security to one of the world's busiest shipping routes. Arab countries remain America's allies, but are increasingly frustrated with Washington's unconditional support for Israel's war on Gaza. The U.S., despite its support for Israel, seems unable or unwilling to push Israel to end its disastrous war and bring back some stability.

Being unable to end the war and having picked a fight with Shia militias, the world's most powerful country is acting like one of the several disruptors in West Asia, and not as a guarantor of peace, stability and deterrence.

What's next?

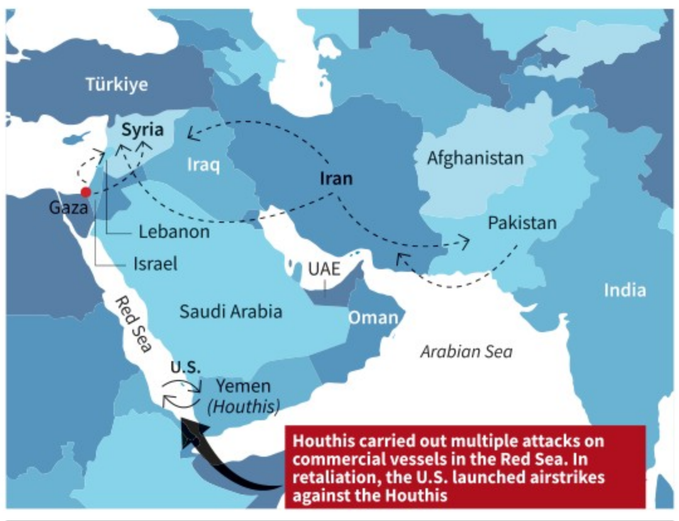
There is no clear way-out from this polycentric crisis. After more than 100 days of war, Israel has achieved little in Gaza, given the targets it set for itself. It is unlikely to wind down the offensive in the near term.

As long as Israel continues the war, Hezbollah and Houthis will continue their attacks. It's to be seen whether the U.S. air strikes on Houthis, who survived Saudi bombing for seven years, would have any real deterring effect other than symbolic values. The U.S. strikes on the Shia units in Iraq and Syria have not stopped them from launching new attacks. If instability spreads further, the Islamic State and other jihadists would seek to exploit the situation. Iraq and Syria remain vulnerable to internal and external challenges. Iran has sought to project force, but Pakistan's response has underscored Iran's limitations. The U.S., once a shaper of outcomes in West Asia, watches the region plunge into chaos.

The only silver lining amid this spiral of crisis, as of now, is that the Saudi-Iran detente, and the associated Saudi-Houthi peace, is holding.

The crisis theatre

The various attacks being carried out in the region post October 7, when Hamas launched attacks in Israel



What are labour rules for workers abroad?

Why are the U.P. and Haryana governments recruiting workers to go and work in Israel? Why are trade unions upset about this? What is the government's stand? What are the international labour standards, especially in a war zone?

A. M. Jigeesh

The story so far:

The Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments, with the help of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), have started the process of recruiting about 10,000 workers to go to Israel, primarily for construction activities. The NSDC website describes it as a "passport to dreams abroad", and a chance to "discover new horizons in Israel". There are 2,000 openings for plastering workers, 2,000 for ceramic tile workers, and 3,000 each for iron bending and frame workers with monthly salaries of about ₹1.37 lakh (6,100 Israeli shekels). Screenings have started in various locations in Haryana and U.P. with the help of State governments.

Who are opposing the move?

Trade unions have opposed this move, citing the Emigration Rules under the Emigration Act. They are planning to challenge this employment drive legally. The central trade unions told the media that such a move is against the Indian ethos of bringing back citizens from conflict zones. The trade union leaders alleged that the BJP-led government was using unemployment among the youth and workers to further their "politics of hate" to please Israel. Several hundreds of people, meanwhile, turned up at the screening centres in Haryana.

> India is satisfied with Israel's labour standards, says MEA spokesperson

Passport to war: Skilled workers wait at a Haryana government recruitment drive to send workers to Israel, in Rohtak, on January 17. REUTERS

What do the Rules prescribe?

Workers going to conflict zones or places without sufficient labour protections are required to register with the Ministry of External Affairs' 'e-migrate' portal. Passports issued under the ECR (Emigration Check Required) scheme cover workers travelling to 18 countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, the UAE, and Yemen. Israel is not on this list and the 'e-migrate' system will not be used for those going to Israel despite continuing violence due to Israel's bombing of Gaza.

The Rules say that no recruiting agent shall collect from the worker service charges more than a maximum of ₹30,000 and the service charges shall include costs of domestic travel or lodging and boarding for conducting of interviews by the recruiting agent. Here, the workers will have to pay a fee to the NSDC, pay for their flight tickets, etc, which will add up to almost ₹1 lakh. The unions point out that paid recruitment in a war zone facilitated by governments violates provisions of the Emigration Act. The MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said India is satisfied with Israel's labour standards. "Labour laws in Israel are very strict, robust. It's an OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) country, therefore labour laws are such that it provides for protection of migrant rights, labour rights. On our part, we are very conscious of our responsibility to provide security and safety to our people who are abroad," Mr. Jaiswal said.

What are the international practices?

The international practices for protection of migrant workers are governed by two conventions of the International Labour Organisation: the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143). While India has not ratified both conventions, Israel had ratified the 1949 convention in 1953. The 1949 convention says: "Each Member for which this Convention is in force undertakes that it will, so far as national laws and regulations permit, take all appropriate steps against misleading propaganda relating to emigration and immigration. For this purpose, it will where appropriate act in co-operation with other Members concerned."

The Israel Defense Forces spokesman Doron Spielman had told media that "there is not a place in Israel that is safe now" due to Hamas. According to some estimates, about 100 people who died in Gaza are migrant workers from Asian and African countries, and as per the Indian Embassy website, as of February 2023, "There are about 18,000 Indian citizens in Israel, primarily caregivers employed by Israeli elders to take care of them, diamond traders, IT professionals and students." According to a 2017 report prepared by the ILO, international migration has grown significantly in the last two decades. The number of migrants from Asia to the Arab states has more than tripled, from 5.7 million in 1990 to 19 million in 2015.

What is the way forward?

The global unemployment rate is set to increase in 2024 while growing social inequalities remain a concern, said the ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024 report. Joblessness and the jobs gap have both fallen below pre-pandemic levels but global unemployment will rise in 2024, it said. It added that many low- and middle-income countries will experience a demographic transition after 2030 and asked the countries to design sensible migration policies and skilling initiatives to support and develop local labour markets with growing populations. "To do so will require, among other things, a more accurate forecast of labour demand by occupations and sectors in destination countries, and a strengthened education and training system in countries with excess labour resources," the report said.

In 2019, a report of the Parliament Standing Committee on External Affairs had asked the Centre to draft a migration policy. The panel, then headed by MP Shashi Tharoor, said it is concerned to note that the existing institutional arrangements for the protection, safety and welfare of Indian emigrants are based on inadequate data infrastructure.

Taiwan's wild card

William Lai

The DPP leader, who won Taiwan's January 13 presidential election, takes office at a time when the self-ruled island is facing deep economic troubles and challenges in cross-Strait relations while the U.S.-China competition is heating up globally

Saumya Kalia

China called him a 'troublemaker', a 'dangerous separatist' who is opposed to the 'peaceful re-unification' of Taiwan with the mainland. Warships, aircraft and balloons were sent as warning signs. The people of Taiwan were warned against choosing him in the Presidential elections.

Meet Lai Ching-te, or William Lai – leader of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), and come May, the self-ruled island's next President. When asked last year who his desired dinner guest was, among all global leaders, Mr. Lai chose Xi Jinping, China's President. What he would tell Xi at the dinner? "Chill out", and "do not put everyone under so much pressure".

China has a noted antipathy for the DPP politician: in 2017, Mr. Lai declared he was a "pragmatic worker" for Taiwan's formal independence, opposing Beijing's claims over the island.

On January 13, Mr. Lai claimed victory, receiving 40% of the vote in a historic election. "The election has shown the world the commitment of the Taiwanese people to democracy," the 64-year-old said at a victory rally, a sentiment he hopes "China can understand".

Mr. Lai is seen as "soft-spoken", "polite", "compassionate"; but also "firm", "aggressive" and "stubborn". Between these extremes sits Mr. Lai, his new office at the centre of a seven-decade-long international rivalry. The choices he makes will determine the status quo between the U.S. and China, China and Taiwan, and Taiwan and the world.

Rise of a politician

Mr. Lai never started out to be a politician – that is until 1996, when China fired missiles into the waters around Taiwan, triggering a military crisis.

His first choice was to become a doctor. He studied medicine at the National Taiwan University, did a master's in public health at Harvard University, specialising in spinal cord injuries. Mr. Lai was a new doctor in the southern city of Tainan, when Taiwan was about to hold its first free presidential elections. The year 1996 was his "defining moment". "...I had a duty to participate in Taiwan's democracy and help protect this fledgling experiment from those who wished it harm," he wrote last year in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Mr. Lai has said his "willpower" to fight traces back to a difficult childhood. Mr. Lai's father, a coal miner, died in a work accident. He spoke in an election video about living in a rickety lodge next to the mines. "One day, I suddenly realised," he said at an event last year, "the biggest asset my father left me was that my family was poor... Growing up in such a family, we will have more courage to overcome difficulties".

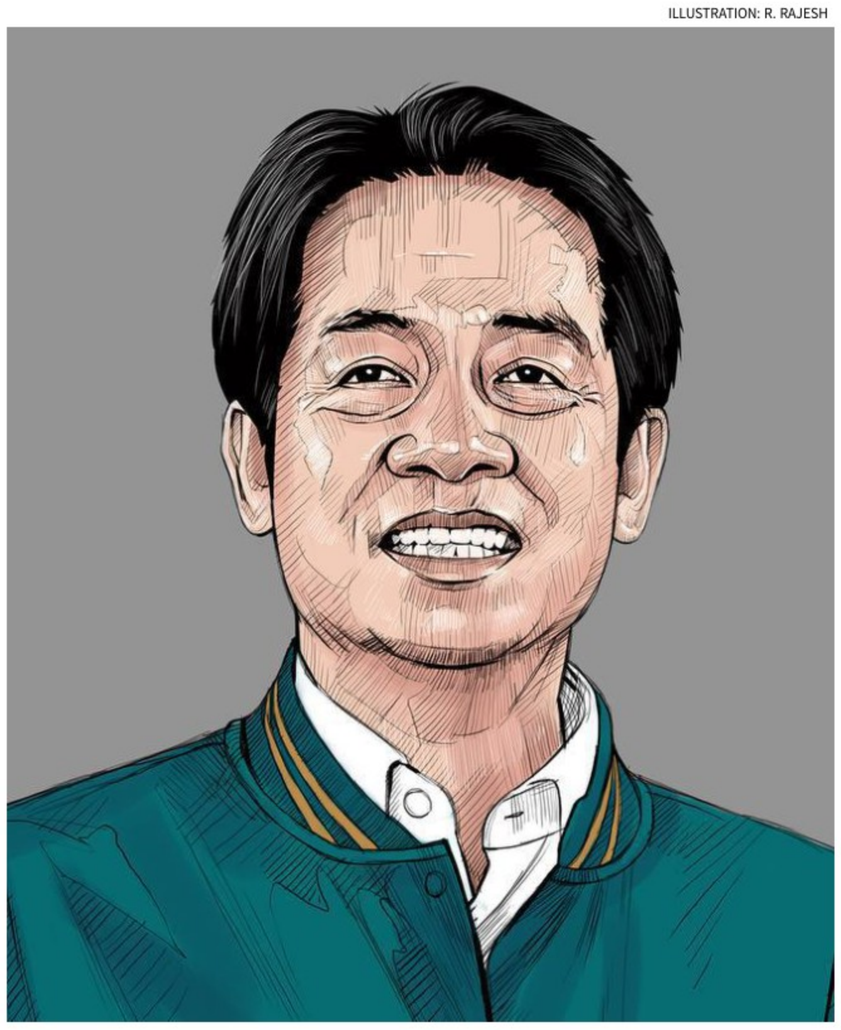
Mr. Lai's mother raised six children in precarious conditions. He reportedly shares a close relationship with his mother, appreciating "how hard she works", Luo Wen-jia, an ex-Cabinet Minister, told *Nikkei Asia*. A biography of Mr. Lai notes that his mother only "reluctantly" supported a pivot to politics. He was resistant too at first: he was persuaded by DPP leaders to counter the authoritarian rule of the Kuomintang (KMT). Mr. Lai gave in. He said in an election video: "Instead of criticising the government... from my clinic, wouldn't it be better to come out... and actually do something for Taiwan?" He became first a Mayor for two years, then a legislator for over a decade. In 2017, he became the Premier, followed by Vice President to the incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen.

His modest background also made him appear more sensitive in the eyes of voters. "He's suffered through cold and poverty... he understands the hardships that we people went through at the grass roots," a DPP activist told the *Times*.

Tsai 2.0

Analysts expect Mr. Lai to follow the political tone of his predecessor, Tsai Ing-wen. In a campaign video, the two are seen driving through the island, reflecting on their tenure. Ms. Tsai hands over the keys to Mr. Lai in the end – symbolic of continuity in Taiwan's politics. "So much of [his] campaign has been trying to reassure not just a domestic audience, but an international audience that he is Tsai Ing-wen 2.0," political science professor Lev Nachman told CNN.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Ms. Tsai is credited with maintaining a stable relationship across the Strait despite strains in ties with China, and building a strong partnership with the U.S. as an ally. Mr. Lai is expected to follow suit: investing in Taiwan's military capacity and strengthening its economy. Mr. Lai plans to reduce reliance on China as a trading partner, and build ties with other like-minded countries, including the U.S., Europe, Japan and Australia.

Unlike Ms. Tsai, however, Mr. Lai has a combative streak that hasn't gone unnoticed. As Premier, he once controversially remarked that "Taiwan is already an independent sovereign country" so there is "no plan or need" to declare independence. China banned Mr. Lai from travelling to the mainland and Hong Kong; a Chinese newspaper called for his arrest. In 2019, Mr. Lai ran against his future boss, Ms. Tsai, rallying for a more aggressive policy towards China. David Sacks, an analyst, told *The Times* that Mr. Lai is "prone to a slip of the tongue, that Beijing pounces on". His limited foreign policy experience also breeds scepticism. The new leadership "could bring new challenges to maintaining peace across the Strait", said Rosie Levine, of the United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC.

In the ad, Mr. Lai says to Ms. Tsai: "We may do things differently, but we have the same principles at heart." He drew parallels between Ukraine and Taiwan, noting that the war in the north "awakened the international community to the fragility of democracy". Last week, Mr. Lai said his victory was a message that between democracy and authoritarianism, Taiwan "will stand on the side of democracy".

A political likeness to his predecessor is received with ambivalence closer to home. The island of 23 million people faces a sluggish economy and an ageing population. Young voters see Ms. Tsai's DPP as the "establishment" after eight years in power. Unaffordable housing, growing inequality, limited job opportunities add to their disillusionment. The DPP won fewer seats this year in comparison to 2020 and has lost a majority in Parliament, which will require him to forge alliances to pass legislation.

Committed to status quo

Mr. Lai, over the years, has tempered his stance. He is "committed" to maintaining the status quo, but also "determined to safeguard Taiwan" from China's intimidation, he said at the victory rally. In January, the Taiwanese Defence Ministry detected Chinese spy balloons and military aircraft in the region. Reports suggest China flooded Taiwanese voters with false reports of Mr. Lai's tax evasion, sex scandals and a "conspiracy" to go to war with China. In his New Year's address, Mr. Xi told Taiwan voters that a 'reunification' is inevitable.

A game of waiting thus commences. The DPP could lose its sheen, widening schisms in Taiwan's legislature, if Mr. Lai loses favour among young voters. Its economy can flail or flourish – Mr. Lai balances a defence relationship with the U.S. and an economic one with China as the two feud over semiconductor exports. The relationship between the U.S. and China can also develop or deflate, depending on Mr. Lai's approach towards the question off ormal independence.

A lot is on stake, from Taiwan's economic prosperity to regional stability and global security.

And all eyes are on Lai Ching-te.

THE GIST

- William Lai first became a Mayor for two years, then a legislator for over a decade. In 2017 he became the Premier, followed by Vice President to the incumbent Tsai Ing-wen
- As Premier, he controversially remarked that "Taiwan is already an independent sovereign country" so there is "no plan or need" to declare independence. China banned Mr. Lai from travelling to the mainland or Hong Kong
- As President, he says he will be "committed" to maintaining the status quo but also "determined to safeguard Taiwan" from China's continuing threat and intimidation

Wrath of the state

Centre for Policy Research

The cancellation of the CPR's FCRA registration marks the culmination of a series of actions by the government against the think tank that began in September 2022

G. Sampath

In March 2023, about 100 academics based outside India released an open letter criticising the Indian government's move to suspend the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) licence of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a leading think tank focussed on public policy research and advocacy. An FCRA registration is necessary to obtain foreign funding. The CPR used to raise more than 75% of its funds from outside India.

In their letter, the scholars said the move "sets a dangerous precedent that will impair the pursuit of research and independent judgement in the country". Their warning about the "dangerous precedent" seemed to have made no impression on the Union Home Ministry, which has now cancelled the CPR's FCRA licence altogether.

Founded in 1973, the CPR, according to its website, is a "non-profit, non-partisan, independent institution dedicated to conducting research that contributes to high quality scholarship, better policies, and a more robust public discourse about the issues that impact life in India". It is a member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research and is recognised by the Department of Science and Technology. Its funders have included the government of India, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, among many others in India and abroad.

INSTAGRAM

The cancellation of the CPR's FCRA registration marks the culmination of a series of actions that began in September 2022, when the Income-Tax Department conducted "surveys" of its offices. This was followed by the suspension of its FCRA in February. In June 2023, the government cancelled its tax-exemption status. An institution that used to employ more than 200 was forced to let most of them go.

Violation on 3 counts

According to its FCRA suspension order, the CPR had allegedly violated the FCRA on three counts: one, it was using foreign contributions for "purposes other than that for which it is registered" and "for undesirable purposes"; two, it "transferred foreign contributions to other entities" in violation of the Act; and three, it was "publishing news articles in violation of section 3 of the Act." The CPR has denied all these allegations.

In June 2023, *The Washington Post* published a report, citing confidential documents, linking the government action against the CPR to its funding of Alok Shukla, an environmentalist who was helping villagers mobilise against "an Adani-operated coal mine in a lush forest in central India called Hasdeo Arand". The CPR has denied funding any anti-mining protests. However, it was involved in a grassroots, data-collection project titled 'Closing the Enforcement Gap: Groundtruthing of Environmental Violations in Sarguja, Chhattisgarh'.

The report, which came out in 2016, describes itself as a "collaborative research between Janabhivyakti, representatives of Hasdeo Arand Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (HABSS), and the CPR-Namati Environmental Justice Program". Alok Shukla is from Janabhivyakti, and his work was critical to the Adani mining project being challenged in court. This study found that "many Specific Conditions in the environment clearance were being violated" and it had enough data for anyone interested to file a lawsuit and/or mobilise environmentalist groups against the project. The *Post* report noted that "within weeks of the September 7 raids, opposition to the Hasdeo mine began to falter" and as lawyers "withdrew from the lawsuit" citing personal reasons, "forest department officials began to clear 106 acres of the Hasdeo forest for a huge expansion of the Adani mine."

The Hasdeo Arand report is just one of many such public-spirited research projects that the CPR has been involved with, and these are studies that, once available in the public domain, are liable to be used by citizens for public causes. Interestingly, in clarifying its objectives, the CPR-backed report states that its aim was "to minimise environmental and social impacts", "empower the community", and help "to strengthen the regulatory process."

Militants in the mountains

Jaish al-Adl

The anti-Iran Baloch separatist group, which is operating largely from the Pakistani side of the border, has brought the two countries to the brink of a war

Peerzada Ashiq

The hanging of wanted anti-Iran Sunni separatist leader Abdul Malik Rigi in Tehran in June 2010, within five months of his capture, attracted dim media attention then. Fourteen years after he founded an armed group, Jundallah – rechristened as Jaish al-Adl (JAA) or the 'Army of Justice' in 2012 following a ban by the U.S. – brought two major military powers, Iran and Pakistan, to the brink of war last week.

AP

Rigi was believed to be behind the killing of 154 members of the Iranian Armed Forces between 2003 and 2010 in southwest Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan region. In 2010, Iranian fighter jets forced the landing of a passenger aircraft to arrest Rigi, as he was travelling from the UAE to Kyrgyzstan.

"The only thing we ask of the Iranian government is to let us be citizens. We want to have the same rights as the Iranian Shias. That's it. We do not want discrimination between Sunnis and Shias in this country," Rigi was quoted as saying in an interview with Al-Arabiya in 2008.

Rigi belonged to the biggest tribe, the Rigis, from the Sistan-Baluchestan region, which is spread over 1,81,578 sq. km, slightly smaller than Karnataka. It is this sparsely populated region (2.8 million) that has posed the Shia-majority Iran's a major secessionist challenge. Rigi is from Iran's minority Sunni Muslims and wanted to re-establish Balochistan, which is currently split between Pakistan and Iran.

The JAA triggered a rare skirmish between Iran and Pakistan, which saw missiles being fired from both sides, killing at least 11 civilians, as per the official figures released by these countries. Iran claimed it attacked training camps of the JAA inside Pakistan. In retaliation, Pakistan claimed to have carried out attacks on militants of the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF). The two countries accused each other of providing safe havens to these militants in their respective territories. Pakistan accuses the BLF of attacking its security forces inside the country.

At present, Salahuddin Farooqui heads the JAA, which is believed to be behind the training of smaller Sunni militant groups to unleash attacks inside Iran.

Iran blames the outfit for the killing of 11 people in an attack on a police station in December 2023. The group was being watched closely by the Iranian security agencies following a suicide bombing on a bus, killing 27 members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in 2019. It has even carried out attacks on Shia civilians, banks and stores.

Al-Qaeda links

Iran, on many occasions, accused the U.S., Britain, Israel, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia of supporting Baloch separatists. However, Western countries accuse the group, including Farooqui, of having ties with al Qaeda. Experts say the JAA's ideology is derived from the orthodox literature of Salafis, close to Saudi Arabia's clergy. The JAA claims it is fighting only against Iran, for the rights of the Balochis.

Till the 1870s, erstwhile Balochistan spread over the parts of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The region's history has grown complex with time, in the backdrop of a series of rulers from Afghan, Arab, Greek, Indian, Mongol, Persian and Turkic empires. However, local dynasties managed varying degrees of autonomy or independence between the 11th and 17th centuries. The JAA claims it's fighting to "secure recognition of Baluchi cultural, economic, and political rights from the Iranian Government".

The JAA is emerging as a formidable outfit because Sistan-Baluchestan is largely mountainous and shares a 322-km border with Sunni-dominated Afghanistan and a 925-km border with Sunni-majority Pakistan. Alexander marched through this region to reach India in 326 BC.

The JAA came under the scanner of Indian security agencies following the abduction of an Indian, Kulbhushan Jadhav. The group allegedly traded Jadhav, who is now facing a trial in Pakistan, to Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) to pump money into the ranks in 2016. Jadhav's capture and the subsequent claim by the Pakistan government that he was a spy soured the relations between India and Pakistan further.